

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director of
Adult and Community Services
To
Community Services & Culture
Scrutiny Committee (Special Meeting)
On
23 January 2013

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South East Essex Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report advises the Committee that consultation is about to commence on a *draft* Mental Health Strategy across South East Essex. The draft strategy is a collaboration involving Southend Borough Council, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, South Essex PCT, and the South East Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups. The draft strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the publication of the draft strategy and that the Committee receive a further report upon the conclusion of consultation.

3. Background

- 3.1 During the summer of 2012, the respective agencies across South East Essex agreed to establish a 'virtual' Commissioning Team to review the existing Mental Health strategy within the context of changes within the NHS; the financial challenges facing health and social care in the coming years; and the changing expectations and aspirations of people who use mental health services. The virtual team reports to a Joint Commissioning Board chaired by the Chief Executive of the South Essex PCT and consisting of senior officers from each of the relevant organisations.
- 3.2 During 2012, the virtual team reviewed the existing strategies and undertook a number of engagement events and meetings with GP's, LA partners, service users and carers, the current Mental Health Trust (SEPT), and with local community groups.

3.3 The review has now been completed and the Joint Mental Health Board wishes to consult on a draft Commissioning Strategy for Adult Mental Health from 2013 – 2017. The key intentions of the strategy are to:-

- Improve the confidence and capability of GP's and their staff to recognise, assess, support and refer people with mental health problems.
- Improve the 'gateway' into services so people are directed to the right support at the right time.
- Improve primary mental health care services so more people are supported without the need to be in secondary care (hospital).
- Focus secondary care on providing intensive, specialist support which improves recovery, personalisation and choice, so fewer people need long term residential care.
- Improve crisis response so less people need inpatient care.
- Focus on developing the usage of alternative providers and self-management where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- Focus on meeting the needs of higher risk groups who may have specialist needs.

3.4 The strategy provides a timeline for working with partners over the next 4 years to deliver the improved outcomes and the respective partners are in the process of completing an integrated delivery plan. This plan will include more detailed modelling of the financial implications and the potential risks and benefits. It is anticipated that parts of the strategy will be implemented on a pilot basis and refined to ensure the local issues important to Southend residents are fully taken into account.

3.5 Consultation will commence in February and at the end of the consultation period, each of the organisations will endorse the strategy through their individual governance arrangements.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

The draft commissioning strategy contributes towards the Council's priorities to maintain improved outcomes for vulnerable adults living in Southend.

4.2 Financial Implications

The Council spends £2m per year in assessing and meeting the social care needs of people with a serious and enduring mental illness. It is anticipated that the demand for some mental health services will increase by 4% over the next 3 years and the draft commissioning strategy is intended to contain the costs of this additional demand within what is affordable to both the NHS and to the Council.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Council has a legal duty to assess and provide appropriate social care and residential services to adults who have a serious and enduring mental illness and meet Fair Access To Care requirements.

4.4 People Implications

There are no direct implications for Council staff arising from this report.

4.5 Property Implications

There are no direct implications for Council properties arising from this report

4.6 Consultation

Considerable consultation and community engagement has occurred in drafting the strategy and this will continue as part of the on-going consultation.

4.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report although the prevalence of serious and enduring mental illness disproportionately affects some communities. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the process of implementing the strategy.

4.8 Risk Assessment

Residents with serious and enduring mental illness are among the most vulnerable people in our community. The Council's reputation would be at risk if we did not commission services to ensure their needs were met safely and appropriately.

4.9 Value for Money

The implementation of the strategy is intended to improve outcomes for service users as well as commissioning services in a more efficient and effective way.

4.10 Community Safety Implications

A small number of people with a serious and enduring mental illness pose a risk to others and the strategy contains proposals for the future commissioning of specialist and forensic services.

5.11 Environmental Impact

There is no direct environmental impact arising from this report..