

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive for People

to
Health & Well-being Board

on
7th December 2016

Jacqui Lansley, Director of Strategy, Commissioning &
Procurement

Southend, Essex & Thurrock Mental Health Strategy

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item) / Part 2

1. Purpose of Report

The new Southend, Essex and Thurrock multi-partner strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing outlines the strategic direction of travel for the mental health system over the next five years. This report is to introduce and request approval on this document.

2. Recommendations

The Board is asked to note and approve the draft strategy.

3. Background

The Strategic Review of Mental Health Services in Essex, commissioned by all the CCGs and local authorities across Southend, Essex and Thurrock, found that the current system was driven by several complexities including multiple commissioners and commissioning bodies, a 'ragged-edged' integration agenda, a shrinking market for specialist mental health trusts and challenging finances throughout. The implication of this, in the words of the review, was that 'the status quo is not an option.'

Shortly after the Strategic Review, the two Essex specialist Mental Health NHS Trusts announced their intention to pursue a merger. This provides further opportunity to reshape adult mental health services.

In order to plot a path through this (whilst also ensuring that that mental health is a priority for the three Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) in the county), partners have agreed to produce a single strategy for mental health and wellbeing across Essex, Southend and Thurrock. This is guided by a vision for mental health that is informed by the national prospectus set out in NHS England's Five Year Forward View for Mental Health (FYFV).

The Strategy is primarily concerned with adult mental health, but it sits alongside the Future in Mind strategy for children and young people's services to form a comprehensive, cradle to grave ambition for mental health and emotional well-being in our county.

There is also a new, cross-partner (all the CCGs and local authorities in Greater Essex) Dementia Strategy which is considered a 'sister' product and is expected to go through governance shortly after the strategy for mental health.

Broadly, the strategy is about moving systems in the following way;

- from responses based on medical diagnosis, to holistic, strengths-based models
- from expert-led to co-production partnerships with people who use services
- from clinic to community as the focus for solutions
- from alleviation of symptoms and crisis management to prevention, early intervention and empowerment.

The strategy also dovetails with the domestic abuse and suicide prevention strategies and the authors of those documents have been sighted as the work around wellbeing and mental health has progressed.

The strategy exists as a suite of three documents which will together comprise Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-21:

- A 'strategy on a sheet' to provide an accessible overview;
- A short version for a wider audience; and
- The full strategy, primarily for system leaders and professionals.

Consultation has been extensive, including with service users and carers, providers, local authorities and criminal justice colleagues, as well as clinical NHS colleagues for clinical oversight.

An action plan will be developed to support implementation of the strategy. Future specific decisions regarding change or commissioning exercises resulting from this will be taken via the normal governance routes in each relevant organisation.

It is intended to obtain final sign-off for the strategy via CCG Governing Body on 1 December. Southend and Thurrock cabinets are expected to receive the strategy in January. The strategy is also on the forward plan for Essex Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2017

4. Other Options

The other options available to the committee would be to:

- Decline to agree that the strategy should proceed on the route for approval; or
- Defer further progress along the approval route pending further information.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

The strategy has been produced on a multi-agency basis to meet the needs for strategic direction and prioritisation to produce a recommended approach to the key mental health issues facing people across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. There has been extensive consultation and wide involvement in the production of the draft strategy and we believe it reflects a good approach to meeting local needs.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

This strategy supports the Council's corporate priorities safe, healthy, prosperous and excellent, and will contribute to the Council's vision "Creating a Better Southend".

6.2 Financial Implications

Approval of the strategy does not in itself commit the Council to specific future spending decisions. As and when decisions around this are required, the usual governance pathways will apply.

6.3 Legal Implications

Approval of the strategy does not in itself commit the Council to specific future commissioning or spending decisions. As and when decisions around this are required, the usual governance pathways will apply.

6.4 People Implications

Needs assessment have identified the higher than average levels of mental health need within Southend. The strategy attempts to provide an appropriate response to these needs.

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

Consultation has been extensive, including with service users and carers, providers, local authorities and criminal justice colleagues, as well as clinical NHS colleagues for clinical oversight.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The strategy seeks to address the significant equality and diversity issues that can confront people with mental health problems.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Approval of the strategy does not in itself commit the Council to specific future commissioning or spending decisions. As and when decisions around this are required, the usual governance pathways will apply.

6.9 Value for Money

Southend is are experiencing increased demand for mental health services at a time when the NHS and local authorities have to make savings. We believe that we can improve services and outcomes in Essex while saving money, and then invest savings in further improvements. Taking this approach will require us to think imaginatively about how we use the resources that we have, and to work collaboratively to use them in the best way. It will also mean fully mobilising the strengths and assets of people with mental health needs, families and communities.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

None

6.11 Environmental Impact

None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Southend, Essex and Thurrock Health and wellbeing Strategy

Appendix 2 – Executive Summary

Appendix 3 – “Strategy on a Sheet”