

BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item no.6

TO: Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 17 September 2013

Commissioning Mental Health Services at Broadway North Resource Centre

Purpose

This is to provide an update on the progress with the consultation on the closure of the residential unit at the Broadway North Resource Centre.

Broadway North Residential Service

Broadway North has been operating as a specialist facility to support those recovering from mental ill health with both day and residential care services available on the site. A review of the services has been completed by the Mental Health Commissioning Team (part of the Joint Commissioning Unit), and concluded with a recommendation to Cabinet in June 2013 to enter in to a consultation on the closure of the residential unit and to purchase equivalent provision from the independent sector.

The 10 residential care beds have offered both the opportunity for those who need some respite (usually to give carers a break and maintain an individual's mental wellbeing) and some crisis response beds for those who need help but where this does not require an admission to a psychiatric hospital. The average occupancy across the whole unit for the financial year 2012/13 was 62.8% or just over 6 beds of the 10 available, and this level of occupancy means that an alternative arrangement of spot purchasing an equivalent residential service elsewhere will offer improved value for money.

The Lonsdale House residential unit operated by Caldmore Housing Association (part of Accord Housing Association Group) does provide an equivalent quality of service at more cost effective rates and also has a total of 15 beds which will provide for greater flexibility at times of high demand. This provider already provides step down provision in line with the mental health recovery pathway to enable users who have had an acute hospital episode to have their discharge back to the local community facilitated in a timely way.

The specialist psychiatric support services of Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust (Home Treatment, and Crisis Response Teams) will continue to support people in these beds in the same way as they have supported people at Broadway North.

Progress with Consultation

The consultation was formally started at the beginning of August and is on target to be completed by the beginning of September. There have been three sessions with staff and service users of the centre. A questionnaire has been developed in partnership between Walsall Council (including advice from Council Consultation and Customer Feedback Officer) and Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust managers. This has been widely circulated and is available on line (see attached):

http://www2.walsall.gov.uk/consultations/broadwaynorth_referrers/broadwaynorthreferrers.htm

A consultation session for clinical and social care practitioner staff across the Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust took place on the 14 August. There were 20 or so people that attended. Some of the outcomes of the consultation to date are as follows:

- To seek reassurance that beds will be available as they are needed. Commissioner response is that the combination of a higher number of beds and spot purchasing arrangements offers the same if not improved availability.
- To seek reassurance that the skill set and experience of the staff at Lonsdale House is equivalent to the staff at Broadway North. Commissioner response is that the Caldmore Housing Association staff do have skills and experience in supporting people with mental health problems. Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust specialist staff will work closely with Caldmore Housing Association staff.
- There should be greater emphasis on preventing people going in to crisis. The range and extent of community based psychiatric support services has been considerably increased in the last two years.
- Some of the beds at Broadway North were at times being used to support people with drug and alcohol problems. Discussions are underway between Caldmore Housing Association and the Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team to develop an equivalent service at Lonsdale House, and other Caldmore Housing facilities across the Borough.

CONCLUSION

The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Council Cabinet in October 2013.

Author

Andy Rust

Head of Joint Commissioning

☎01922 654713

Andy.Rust@Walsall.nhs.uk