

## **SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

MONDAY 15 OCTOBER 2012 AT 6.00 P.M.

**Panel Members Present:** Councillor T. Oliver (Chair)  
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul  
Councillor D. Barker  
Councillor R. Burley  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor J. Rochelle  
Councillor S. Coughlan

**Officers Present:** Paul Davies, Executive Director (Social Care and Inclusion)  
Andy Rust, Head of Joint Commissioning  
Peter Davis, Head of Community Care (Operations)

### **206/12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received for the duration of the meeting from Councillor D. Coughlan.

### **207/12 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor S. Coughlan substituted for Councillor D. Coughlan.

### **208/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

### **209/12 MINUTES**

A Member noted that Item 203/12 should be corrected to refer to Rushall Mews. Following a further Member query it was clarified that in relation to Healthwatch Walsall there had been a reduction in indicative funding from £133,000 to £67,799 annually.

### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2012, as amended, copies having previously been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record.**

### **2010/12 COMMISSIONING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Head of Community Care (Operations) introduced the report. The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that the Lead Programme Manager for Mental Health had led a review of the Broadway North Resource Centre (BNRC) by the Mental Health Commissioning Team over the last twelve months. The review evaluated the value for money (VFM) and assess positive outcomes for those using the

services. The review involved a number of key stakeholders, including the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust (DWMHT);

- It was explained that BNRC currently has 10 residential beds for crisis, respite care and a day service Monday to Friday. It was further explained that the suite of day and residential mental health services provided at BNRC is operated by council employed staff who are line-managed by DWMHT;
- A significant conclusion of the VFM process was that alternative provision of residential beds from the independent sector would represent an annual saving of £199,260 excluding building maintenance costs;
- It was explained that the key proposals from the review were to decommission the crisis and respite care beds. The intention would then be to target poor quality care providers and use the available beds to assess and transition service users to good quality care provision. Many service users would then make choices regarding their individual care via Individual Budgets;
- The second element of the proposals is to modernise the day services at the BNRC. This will involve working closely with the Park Hall Community Association (CA) in developing a joint offering of day services. The Chair explained that he had spoken with the Chair of Park Hall CA who was comfortable with the proposals for joint working for the delivery of more community based support for service users. The Executive Director explained that at present Park Hall operated under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the provision of mental health services on behalf of the council, including therapeutic art classes. It would be necessary to determine a rent for the premises which reflected the value of the work undertaken but also recognised the need for it to operate cost effectively;
- In response to a query from the Chair the Executive Director explained that the shape of service provision would be dependent on the alternatives available in the independent sector. However, he stressed that the changes proposed would take place over a considerable period of time. During this period it would be important to ensure that effective services were delivered and it was clear that the current provision of 10 respite care beds was no longer appropriate;
- Following a query from the Chair officers confirmed that the financial costs of bed provision for the council at over £414k. It was also confirmed that even if occupancy rates were significantly increased alternative comparative residential provision in the independent sector represented a significant saving to the council. A Member queried how individuals would be able to purchase respite residential care from the independent sector at £615 per week, particularly given the proposed additional cuts in welfare benefits. Officers explained that BNRC was a short/ respite rather than long term care unit. The company My Support Broker were supporting individuals in determining how they could best use their personal budgets to meet their needs, with the focus on the new model of reablement within the community. It was anticipated that all service users would have received this support by the end of 2012. The Executive Director explained he was not certain if the residential service at BNRC would be close. However, he emphasised that those who need respite care would receive it. He also noted that the new model of community reablement had seen a significant fall in the number of individuals placed in residential care over the last two years;
- There was agreement between Members and officers that the current BNRC was not fit for purpose and modernisation was required in both the day care services and the residential care beds. However, officers acknowledged that there was a

degree of uncertainty over the future shape of services at BNRC, particularly as this would be partly determined by how individuals would choose to commit their personal budgets. The Executive Director explained that it may also be necessary to provide a subsidy to be able to deliver certain services and where this was not available from the independent sector;

- Officers also agreed that it would be important to avoid a scenario where the BNRC almost became a permanent building site to meet changing demands. Officers also confirmed that they remained committed to consulting with service users over future changes.

**Resolved:**

**The Panel noted the report;**

**and**

**That a further report on the proposals be provided to the Panel's meeting on 16 January 2013.**

**211/12 LEARNING DISABILITY SPECIALIST HEALTH SERVICES:  
DECOMMISSIONING OF SUTTON'S DRIVE**

The Head of the Joint Commissioning Unit introduced the report. The following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that Sutton's Drive is an 8 bed residential unit provided by the Black Country Foundation Partnership Trust (BCPFT) for those with learning disabilities who have offended or who are at risk of offending. It was also explained that demand for this type of service has fallen and there is also no evidence of demand from other Black Country commissioners to purchase beds;
- Over the last two years the council has become responsible for funding the majority of placements and therefore is now developing community options. This is both in line with the rest of its social care service delivery and provides a more effective way of supporting people to achieve positive outcomes;
- Following a Member query it was emphasised that the 28 staff at the unit were highly valued and it was anticipated that they would have a role in delivering the community-based model of support;
- In response to a query from the Chair officers explained that all those that require short term treatment will receive it. Officers agreed with Members that this was a group within the community that needed to be properly supported and that individuals in need should not be allowed to fall through the net of service provision.

**Resolved:**

**The Panel noted the report;**

**and**

**That a further report on the proposals be provided to the Panel's meeting on 16 January 2013.**

#### **212/12 WINTER SURGE PLAN**

The Head of the Joint Commissioning Unit introduced the report, the following is a summary of the report and subsequent discussion:

- It was explained that the plan was the product of planning from the whole social care system in preparing for winter 2012-13. The report highlighted in particular the social care issues for which the council was responsible;
- It was explained that the council had a critical role in working with the hospital, in particular in managing those moving from hospital back to independent living in the community as part of the frail/ elderly pathway which may require a period of intensive short term residential care;
- Following Member queries officers explained that the GPs out-of-hours service and the walk-in centre had not had a significant impact in reducing the number of people attending A&E. Officers explained that a preference appeared to exist amongst many local residents to visit A&E either instead of or in addition to their GP. There was agreement that it would be important to further promote the alternatives to A&E;
- Following queries from the Chair and a Panel Member it was explained that it was difficult to confidently anticipate the pressures that are likely to be exerted on the social care economy over the coming winter months. However, the development of the Surge Plan enabled contingencies to be put in place to manage expected demand based on previous experience. The difficulty of accurately predicting demand was highlighted by an unexplained spike in hospital admissions in August that was now the subject of a review;
- Following a Panel query it was explained that the hospital had reduced its staffing underspend and that there were now more doctors and nurses than a year ago. However, it was acknowledged that a significant funding gap remained for the NHS.
- Following a lengthy and full discussion the Panel noted the report.

**Resolved:**

**The Panel noted the report.**

**2013/12 WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13 AND FORWARD PLAN**

**Resolved:**

**That the work programme and Forward Plan be noted.**

**214/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair informed Members that the date of the next meeting would be 20 November, 2012 at 6.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.

Chair:

Date: