

DATE: 15th OCTOBER 2012

Decommissioning of Sutton's Drive

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr B. McCracken – Social Care and Inclusion

Report:

Sutton's Drive is an 8 bed residential step down unit provided by the Black Country Foundation Partnership Trust (BCPFT) for people with learning disabilities who have presented offending behaviour or whose behaviour leaves them at risk of offending. The service provides a bed based clinical setting to deliver a short term programme of treatment and rehabilitation, normally up to 6 months.

Demand for this type of service to be provided in a residential setting has been falling and it is forecast to require less than half the current beds during 2013/14. The Trust was requested to establish whether there is any interest from other Black Country commissioners to purchase beds from Sutton's Drive, but this is insufficient for it to continue as a viable service.

Quality inspections by the Care Quality Commission of this service have been good and there is recognition of the valuable contribution made by the staff. However, Walsall has a far higher admission to this type of residential service compared to the rest of the Black Country, and has recently been developing community options which provide support in peoples own homes because this is a more effective way of supporting people to achieve positive outcomes than a residential option.

Changes in funding responsibility over the last two years have meant that the current funding of the majority of these short term placements is by the Council, and this further supports the principle that a community based service is more appropriate.

The Trust has informed the Council that they no longer wish to deliver the service as they cannot establish a viable business model for the unit. The current service will finish at the end of September 2012, with a transition period to close the service by the end of December 2012. This will allow time for completion of the treatment programmes for about half of the current placements. Collaborative working between commissioners and the Trust will ensure a safe transition for those people who will not have completed their treatment programme at the point of closure.

A new community based pathway incorporating an integrated forensic team will provide support and facilitate the transition of individuals to community settings. The service will also provide intervention to prevent out of area placements and a

controlled step up if appropriate. This will compliment the development of community based assessment and treatment services utilising positive behaviour approaches. The council will be reinvesting in a new Community Service in partnership with the Trust with a view to delivering this service from 1st April 2013.

Where there is a need for a short term period of residential rehabilitation and treatment this can be purchased from other providers of this type of service within Walsall.

Recommendations:

That Members;

- 1. Note the contents of this report.**
- 2. Officers return in January 2013 to provide update on decommissioning of Suttons Drive and commissioning of the new services.**

Contact Officer:

Ian Staples
Lead Commissioner
 01922 602453
staplesi@walsall.gov.uk