

**Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Agenda  
Item No.**

**Date** 17 December 2015

**8.**

**Contract with Black Country Partnership Foundation NHS Trust for specialist health learning disability services**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Councillor E Hughes

**Executive Summary:**

The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust is seeking a “horizontal” NHS provider of services with whom they will seek to merge allowing for the continuation of local service provision whilst providing financial stability.

The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust are mandated under the NHS standard contract to provide Commissioners with a range of comprehensive reports which support to measure service delivery and performance.

**Reason for scrutiny:**

The report sets out to provide assurance to Committee members of the ongoing performance management arrangements for the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust and the continuity plans in place for service delivery in the event of provider failure.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee members receive this report as providing assurance on the ongoing performance management of the council and the Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) contracts under the pooled budget. With the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust and service continuity arrangements in place in the event of a provider failure

**Background papers:**

Cabinet report, 24 June 2015, Contract with Black Country Partnership Foundation NHS Trust for specialist health learning disability services.

**Resource and legal considerations:**

WCCG is responsible for commissioning a range of specialist health services under

the NHS standard contract. WCCG commissions /co-commissions 23 services under these arrangements of which the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust is one. WCCG has delegated their responsibility for the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust contract to Walsall MBC (WMBC) as part of the section 75 agreement between WMBC and WCCG.

WCCG were informed on the 7 September 2015 by Monitor of its investigation of the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust compliance with its licence. The decision to investigate was due to concerns about the Trust's financial sustainability triggered by the reporting of a Continuity of Service Risk Rating (CoSRR) of 2 and a Capital Cover rating of 1 in Quarter 1 of 2015/16.

The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust subsequently informed WCCG of their intentions to seek a horizontal merger with another trust that will support the continuity of service provision whilst providing financial stability. The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust facilitated a stakeholder event on the 27 November 2015 where the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust (DWMHT) and a joint bid from Birmingham Community and Solihull Foundation Trust were presented to panel members. WCCG and WMBC are waiting to hear the outcome from this event.

The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust solely provides specialist learning disability community provision across the Black Country and this is purchased on an activity basis through the NHS standard contract arrangement. In the likelihood that the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust were unable to continue with service delivery, WCCG would seek to purchase activity relating to each service sector through an alternative NHS trust or an alternative provider under Any Qualified Provider.

The provision of Assessment and Treatment and Rehabilitation beds is currently purchased through a mixed economy of providers. In the likelihood that the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust were unable to continue with this provision, alternative providers who are suitably qualified will be commissioned in line with WCCG responsibilities under the Mental Health Act framework.

The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust are part of the NHS Vanguard programme and working with the Vanguard team, the trust are seeking to make efficiencies in service delivery that supports their financial sustainability in the coming years.

**Citizen impact:**

The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust is currently delivering specialist health services to the local community.

**Environmental impact:**

There are no direct environmental implications for the Council.

## **Performance management:**

The NHS standard contract mandates a multitude of measurements and monitoring requirements that all NHS service providers are required to adhere to. The current arrangements in place include:

- a) Clinical Quality Review Meetings, which review the provider's compliance against nationally stipulated guidance on clinical procedures. WCCG Quality Assurance team attend these and support Commissioners in reviewing the procedures in place and ensuring that the trust is meeting its obligations for customer safety and expected standards for clinical procedures.
- b) Contract Review Meetings are supported by the WCCG contracts team and support to ensure that the Trust are meeting their obligations under the NHS standard contract for service provision.
- c) The Trust provide a number of mandated reports on a quarterly basis which include but not limited to a comprehensive Quality Report, Price Activity Matrix, CQUIN's updates, Exception Reports, Customer Surveys, Clinical Audits, Estate Strategies and Clinical Audits.

## **Equality Implications:**

This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.


## **Consultation:**

The service is currently provided by the Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust who will continue the delivery of the existing specialist health services. Regular liaison with users and carers in the learning disability community takes place through the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust completes numerous surveys and satisfaction surveys with stakeholders.

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