

**NHS CONSULTATION – PROPOSED REDESIGN OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
ACROSS CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH
(Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 17th October 2011, NHS Cambridgeshire launched a consultation on its plans to transform mental health services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 1.2 Members may recall that at previous Panel meetings, some concerns were expressed at the temporary closure of the mental health ward at Hinchingbrooke Hospital earlier on in the year. Patients have since been transferred over to Peterborough City Hospital and it has been suggested that this will have an adverse impact on both patients and visitors.
- 1.3 The consultation will run for a period of 13 weeks and will close on 16th January 2012. A copy of the full consultation document is reproduced as an Appendix hereto.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report, therefore, is to provide the Panel with an opportunity to formulate a response to the consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 NHS Cambridgeshire, NHS Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust have been working alongside GPs to develop the proposals which could see mental health services in the area radically transformed over the next three years.
- 2.2 The plans have been developed on the basis of patient feedback, GP experience and recent inspections. These have revealed that current services are complicated, not always easy to access and do not meet local needs. If approved, it is claimed the new services will provide easy to access, high-quality preventative services in the community. They will improve the services received by patients and ensure that inpatient services are delivered in modern, purpose built facilities that meet current standards of patient privacy and dignity.

3. CONSULTATION PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The plans are:
 - to open a new 24/7 advice and intervention centre;
 - to redesign primary care mental health services;
 - to combine some inpatient wards for adults;
 - to combine some inpatient wards for older people, and
 - to re-design community services for people of all ages

3.2 The aims of the proposed changes are to:

- give patients faster access to support, advice and information sooner in order to try and prevent deterioration in their mental health at a later stage;
- improve the responsiveness, quality, reliability and efficiency of community-based mental health service, and
- enable all patients who require admission to hospital to be accommodated in modern purpose-built facilities where they can access the full range of treatments available.

4. CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 The Huntingdonshire Health and Well-being Group (Local Health Partnership) last met on 19th October 2011, which meant that it did not have chance to consider the consultation on the redesign of mental health services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. However, individual partners on the Group were made aware of the consultation and were urged to respond independently.

4.2 The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for Cambridgeshire has only met once, on 14th October 2011. That meeting pre-dated the release of the consultation. The next meeting of the Shadow Board is not yet scheduled but should be around 16th December 2011. It has not, therefore, reached any conclusions on the consultation.

4.3 The Mental Health Services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the consultation on 29th November 2011. The Panel will be provided with an update on this meeting.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Members of the Panel have previously raised concerns at the temporary closure of the mental health ward at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The consultation proposals seek formally to relocate the facility to the Lucille van Geest Centre in Peterborough. The Panel is invited to consider whether it wishes to submit a response to NHS Cambridgeshire's consultation on the proposed redesign of mental health services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NHS Cambridgeshire Website – www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk.

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