

Report to Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee –
5 September 2012

Crisis Houses Warwickshire

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee as to current position on the occupancy levels of the two Crisis House facilities within Warwickshire, the report follows a previous report to committee in September 2011 where the option of a third Crisis House had been discussed as part of the overall redesign and consultation of Warwickshire Adult Mental Health services. This option was considered and a decision made not to proceed based on current demand and capacity already available. The committee supported this decision however wished to be assured that this capacity could accommodate the demand over the next 12 months and beyond. This report therefore is an update on this issue.

2. Background

Crisis Houses are used often alongside the intervention of Crisis Resolution/Home Treatment (CR/HT) to support individuals who are in a psychiatric crisis and where hospital admission can be avoided.

Respite or Crisis Houses are usually located in ordinary houses in the community and whilst there are a variety of models, they are generally run by Third Sector organisations which work in partnership with statutory services, particularly CR/HT Teams, to prevent hospital admission and more latterly to enable and support earlier discharge.

Many areas of the country have varying degrees of facilities, with some areas not having any access to such provision at all.

It is not a national or local requirement to provide a Crisis House or accommodation, for those in psychiatric crisis and who would be under the care of the Crisis Resolution/Home Treatment Team.

It is however deemed as good practice and the feedback from Service Users and Carers is that it can help to support and break the cycle of repeat admissions, where it is offered as an alternative, and robust Crisis Resolution/Home Treatment Teams are available and they work together.

Currently in Warwickshire there are two such facilities already in operation; one in Nuneaton called Gwenda House and another in Leamington called Park House.

The Crisis House

Services are commissioned and run independently from CWPT, the provider Trust. They are operated by two separate providers Rethink for Leamington and Friendship for Gwenda House however they work closely with CWPT Mental Health Services supporting service users in a crisis. With CWPT through their Crisis Home Treatment teams being the gate keeper into these houses.

A further development during 2011 was to ensure that any service user receiving home treatment from CWPT could be supported to use any of the established facilities if they meet the criteria and therefore would be offered a crisis bed in either the Leamington or Nuneaton Crisis Houses as part of their support package and to prevent an admission.

At the time of the original report September 2011 a review had taken place by the CWPT and the Crisis House providers, Rethink and Friendship Housing, this looked at current demand and capacity to ensure they could meet the expansion of this provision to all Warwickshire Service Users. This report that follows was requested by the committee to ensure that whilst at the time there was clear evidence demand could be met within the established facilities could we be assured this demand would not out way capacity for the future years?

3. Current Position

There are two Crisis Houses in Warwickshire; one in Nuneaton and one in Leamington both of which are commissioned through Arden Commissioners.

Referring to the occupancy chart you will clearly see that capacity continues to outweigh demand and opening the referral route up to all service users living within Warwickshire has not created unmanageable demand. All of the Crisis Houses are currently operating at varying degrees of under occupancy.

The current providers share this information with commissioners and the providers by providing quarterly monitoring reports directly to the commissioners. Based on these figures it appears that the original decision that another facility was not warranted would still be our up held. .

Table 1: Crisis House Provision for Coventry & Warwickshire					
Property	Owners	Size	Operators	Commissioning Arrangements	Average Occupancy Levels 2011/2012
Park House Leamington	CWPT	6 beds plus office accommodation	Rethink	NHS Warwickshire 3 year contract - £123,000 pa	50%
Gwenda House, Nuneaton	Warwickshire County Council	3 beds	Friendship Care and Housing	NHS Warwickshire 3 year contract - £154,000 pa	80%

We have worked with the current Crisis Team Managers and Leads who inform us that should a Service User require a crisis bed to avoid admissions then they routinely consider all facilities.

3.1 Park House Leamington

The accommodation consists of 6 beds. It is currently under utilised. This figure has increased slightly since the reconfiguration of adult in-patient mental health beds; however it remains at around 50%.

The accommodation is under utilised and not in line with the expected service delivery model, as it is in a part of a building that is also used as a community accommodation base for staff from Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust.

As identified in the previous position paper in April 2010, the Trust is currently the landlord without a lease. This is an ad hoc arrangement which presents a risk and cannot continue without a more formal contract in place. This will be progressed by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust.

3.2 Gwenda House Nuneaton

This Crisis House opened in June 2007, after many years of planning and advocacy for such a house by the Service User led organisation, Voices for

Choices. Located next to the Wellbeing Centre, this is a small, 3-bedroomed house, its lounge and dining room enhanced by the imaginative provision of outside space at the end of the garden. The property is rented by Friendship Care and Housing from Warwickshire County Council.

Friendship Care and Housing, a Housing Association, provides support to guests who are able to stay in the house for up to 3 weeks. A flexible service, including day attendances if needed, is provided. Staff¹ are on site from 8.00am until 10.00pm, although the Crisis Team gate keep admissions and visit to provide clinical support. The house has 3 bedrooms, 1 en-suite, and is attractive and well-furnished, although there is no wheelchair access to the bedrooms.

The contract was tendered by NHS Warwickshire and won by Friendship Care and Housing with a value of £154,000 pa. It was then extended for another 3 year period, with the same specification as the Crisis House in South Warwickshire. Monitoring data is provided to the commissioners, covering the number of admissions and outcomes for Service Users.²

Established and valued by Service Users, this house is nevertheless not used to its full occupancy. With the closure of the Avenue Clinic, Nuneaton demand has been monitored closely to ensure that admissions to hospital are avoided and early discharge facilitated.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the following information and be assured that the two current facilities provided by third sector are meeting the current need of service users who would and could be offered a crisis bed and home treatment as an alternative to inpatient care.

We will be discussing current situation with Commissioners and will support ongoing monitoring.

Susan Smith
General Manager Age Independent Mental Health
August 2012

¹ A service manager and 4 support staff

² Data provided by Phil Cullen, Team Manager