

Agenda No 4

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Committee</i>	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<i>Date of Committee</i>	9th November 2005
<i>Report Title</i>	Mental Health Provision
<i>Summary</i>	The Committee to note the responses to their recommendations arising from their consideration of the final report of the Mental Health Service Panel (1 st Phase).
<i>For further information please contact:</i>	Phil Maull Senior Committee Administrator, Tel: 01926 412834 philmaull@warwickshire.gov.uk
<i>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</i>	No.
<i>Background papers</i>	None

South Warwickshire PCT

Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of Mental Health

Introduction

South Warwickshire PCT welcomed the review of Mental Health Services in Warwickshire and has contributed to the process via the provision of information, opinion and advice.

We welcome the opportunity to respond formally to the recommendations contained within the report. For ease of reference we have stated the conclusion identified in the report and then given our response.

Conclusion 1.

The review identified that there are a multitude of care packages, concerns were raised that agencies were not sufficiently linked.

Recommendations 1,2,3

SWPCT response:

SWPCT supports the recommendation put forward by the OSC to utilising information captured via the Durham University site as part of the annual Mental Health Assessment process, the Supporting People process and other health related well-being data in Warwickshire's Quality of Life Report. The PCT is committed to working in partnership with the Local Authority and Voluntary organisations to establish the most effective way of making existing information and new information available in a coordinated manner.

Consideration could be given to a Warwickshire Mental Health web site jointly supported by both statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

Conclusion 2.

Identified that Mental Health provision in Warwickshire is complex and must be difficult for service users and carers to be able to know what is readily available or where to seek help.

Recommendations 2,3

SWPCT response:

Ensuring up to date information is available to enable informed decision-making by service users and carers is essential. SWPCT supports the recommendation to make information readily available.

Work to address recommendations within Standards One, Two, Three and Six of the National Service Framework all has an impact upon the accessibility and suitability of

information. To ensure that we have a coordinated approach Local Implementation Teams, with their broad stakeholder base should be tasked with establishing a County wide task group to take this forward. Social Services would be well placed to take the lead agency role.

Conclusion 3

Identified the importance for Mental Health services to make the links with mainstream activities through:

- **Social Inclusion agenda**
- **Training at all levels**
- **Sustainability of funding**
- **Housing**
- **Recreational Activities**

Recommendations 3,4,

SWPCT response:

Conclusion 4

That BME populations do not appear to attend day services and the explanation given is that it is partly due to the stigma they attached to mental illness.

Recommendation 5

SWPCT response:

SWPCT has invested in Community Development Workers. An early priority for these posts has been to assess the current accessibility and acceptability to local BME communities of our services and to provide recommendations for improving access.

SWPCT supports recommendation 5 in the report.

Conclusion 5

Acknowledged that services such as Springfield MIND are providing the means for those wanting to access other health / social services provision.

Recommendation 6

SWPCT response

Promoting positive health and access to health screening for individuals experiencing mental health difficulties is extremely important.

SWPCT supports the recommendation. Initiatives are currently in place via;

- The Carers Support Workers
- Acute In-patient smoking cessation forum
- Rehabilitation unit physical health initiative

SWPCT has included recommendations within the Choosing Health initiative to build upon work undertaken to date. These seek to ensure that the take up of screening amongst service users (e.g. Cervical screening, Mammography), is equal to that of the local population.

Conclusion 6

Acknowledged that there is considerable support being offered to those with mental health problems to remain in work or access employment. However, there was evidence to suggest that there is still stigmatism attached to mental health and more work with employees could help reduce this.

Recommendation 7, 8

SWPCT response:

Initiatives such as the Mental Health Employment Strategy, Progress to Work projects in both Substance Misuse and Alcohol should continue and be more broadly publicised.

Consideration should be given to how PCTs and the Local Authority can promote their own track record of both providing employment opportunities for service users and for promoting mental health within their own workplaces.

SWPCT supports the proposal for Warwickshire County Council and the Borough and District Councils to hold a “Mental Health Awareness Raising Event” and is willing to contribute in expertise to assist in such an event.

Conclusion 7

The mental health event identified that there are still problems with the links being made between the statutory and voluntary sector. Delegates felt that an annual event would help.

Recommendation 8, 10, 11

SWPCT response:

SWPCT is supportive of the proposal for an annual event, led by the Supporting People team.

SWPCT is supportive of the need services such as housing, benefits and support in the workplace to evaluate their services to identify gaps in provision. We would recommend that the review also evaluate the effectiveness of the interface between agencies. Consideration could be given to identifying a Mental Health lead in each organisation, which could act as a point of contact for other agencies and disseminate best practice information.

SWPCT is willing to assist in these reviews both directly and in an advocacy-supporting role.

SWPCT would welcome the opportunity to participate in a local review of how benefits agencies could be more user friendly and responsive to mental health service users.

Conclusion 9

Commissioning services for 3 years was felt to be detrimental for the voluntary sector.

Recommendations 12

SWPCT response:

SWPCT is committed to jointly reviewing commissioning arrangements with the Local Authority. The Joint Commissioning Board has received a paper on Commissioning Mental Health services, which is due for consideration by Cabinet and PCT Boards in due course. As part of these discussions the PCT would be willing to jointly review the period for which contracts should be let, consistent with regulations concerning best value, competitive tendering, choice and plurality of provision.

Director of Operations
South Warwickshire PCT
September 2005

ah/ljm

6th September 2005

Mr P Maul
Senior Committee Administrator
Member Services Manager
Chief Executive's Department
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WARWICK
CV31 4RR

Dear Mr Maul

Re: Warwickshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 27th July 2005

Thank you for your letter dated 8th August 2005 requesting comments on the recommendations of the above meeting. Responses from North Warwickshire PCT are as follows:

- 1. Report of the Mental Health Panel on Mental Provision in Warwickshire: minute 3 – pages 3 and 4. All recommendations in this report are correct.**

We are in agreement with all of the recommendations contained within the report. We will work closely with Senior Managers and Clinicians from the PCT in partnership with Warwickshire County Council to ensure recommendations are met.

- 2. Final report of the Drugs Substance and Alcohol Misuse in Rugby Panel: minute 4 – pages 4 and 5.**

We are in agreement with all of the recommendations contained within the report.

In relation to points 2a, 2b, 2c of section A, Information, Services and Resources of the recommendations, more information would be welcomed to enable us to identify how the information requests from the PCT's will be taken forward.

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We would recommend that all of the recommendations are fed through the DAT who will then liaise with the PCT's for responses. This will ensure a co-ordinated approach and prevent possible duplication.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Anne Heckels
Chief Executive

"Our aim is to promote the health and well-being of the community we serve"