

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Committee **11 July 2007**

Report Title **Mental Health Consultation - Rugby**

Summary Sandy Taylor and Colin Merker will be advising the Committee on plans for the 12 week consultation about Mental Health Services in Rugby, which is expected to start during July/August 2007. A copy of a briefing paper is attached.

***For further information
please contact:*** Phil Maull
Senior Committee
Administrator
Tel: 01926 412834
philmaull@warwickshire.gov.uk

Briefing for members of the Warwickshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Proposals for a Public Consultation, over Possible Changes in Rugby's Adult Mental
Health Services

Introduction

The following is intended to provide Warwickshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee members with a briefing around the need for change within the Mental Health Services provided to the Rugby locality.

A formal consultation process will commence with the presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 11th July 2007 and will conclude on the 3rd October 2007.

The Need for Change

There were two tragic homicides that occurred in Rugby in 2005. The independent homicide inquiry reports, criticised a number of aspects of the Mental Health Services in Rugby. In particular, the reports highlighted areas of improvement required within the liaison, leadership and integrated working, of the various elements of the mental health services in the Rugby area.

Prior to this the former Rugby PCT, had a number of concerns around aspects of the Rugby Mental Health Services provision, to the extent that they were considering the option of tendering Rugby's Mental Health Services.

These concerns have also been expressed by users and carers who have a desire to see a more responsive individualised service., There is also a need to make greater use of the new non-statutory service in ensuring the issue of stigma and exclusion is addressed.

Since the establishment of the Partnership Trust in October 2006, a detailed action plan has been agreed with Warwickshire PCT and the West Midlands strategic Health Authority in response to the recommendations of the independent homicide inquiry reports. The Trust has also been reviewing the capacity and capability of all of the elements of the Mental Health Services within Rugby.

In reviewing Rugby's current services, the Trust has identified that investment has been made within the services over the last 4 to 5 years. That investment has been in line with national initiatives, principally emanating from the National Service Framework (NSF) for Adult Mental Health Services published in 1999. This investment has provided Rugby with the framework of community-based services as set out within the NSF. This pattern of services now enables more patients to be

supported and cared for within the community and within their own homes, rather than within the hospital based Inpatient Services.

Between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007, 2,219 referrals were received by Rugby's Adult Mental Health Services. Of those 2,219 referrals, only 152 required the patient to be admitted into the In-patient service. Of the 152 admissions, some 26 were repeat admissions of the same patient.

There are, however, a number of service areas, where the current service configuration can be improved and developed. There are some areas where there will be increasing risk to staff and patient safety, if further development and reconfiguration is not undertaken and the services consolidated in the near future.

The specialist community based services of Crisis Resolution/ Home Treatment Team, Assertive Outreach and Early Intervention Services, which have been developed in recent years, have been developed in a fragmented way. These services need to work closely together to deliver clinically efficient, effective and safe services. Currently these services operate from a number of independent bases across Rugby. Within the proposed changes, we want to bring all of community based services within Rugby together, within a new central and easily accessible Mental Health Resource Centre. Bringing services together in this way would ensure improved integrated working. Similar developments have already been progressed within the South Warwickshire and Coventry service localities.

Alongside these proposals, the Trust has been looking at the current Adult Inpatient Services that are provided to Rugby through Linden Ward at the hospital of St Cross.

These inpatient services are delivered from the second floor of a former Victorian building that was converted in the early 1990s, to provide a 16 bedded Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Assessment and Treatment unit. The unit provides individual bedrooms, but the conversion of the Victorian building, has meant that the layout of the facilities does not provide for effective observation and therefore creates potential risks. A number of the bedrooms and associated support accommodation are hidden away within the network of circulation corridors within the unit.

The overall environment is also generally poor with dark corridors and limited therapeutic space. The unit provides a stark comparison to the other inpatient units operated by the Partnership Trust at the Caludon Centre in Coventry and St Michael's in South Warwickshire.

The nurse staffing establishment can only provide the following:

- 5 Staff – Early Shift
- 5 Staff – Late Shift
- 3 Staff – Night Shift

The overall establishment will provide a minimum of one qualified nurse per shift, with this increasing to 2 per early and late shift Monday to Friday.

On occasions due to sickness, escort duties, etc, only 3 staff may be on during the day shifts.

With the introduction of community based services, the case mix complexity on Linden Ward has increased significantly. In addition the frequency by which patients are required to be transferred to St Michaels Hospital (Warwick), Avenue Clinic (Nuneaton), Caludon Centre (Coventry) has increased due to the fact it would be unsafe to manage these patients in a situation where:

- a) There was a maximum of 3 staff on night duty.
- b) There is not immediate access to a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit.

The public consultation proposals set out the options for addressing these growing concerns. The proposals also set out a preferred solution, which centres around transferring Rugby's Inpatient Services to a new and un-commissioned ward within the Trusts Caludon Centre development in Coventry.

The proposals for Rugby's Adult Mental Health Services are consistent with national policy. Professor Louis Appleby (National Clinical Director – Mental Health) in his recent report 'Breaking Down the Barriers Identified'.

- Care closure to home
- Earlier intervention
- 24/7 hour treatment
- Tailored care
- Better access to modern drugs
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Talking therapies

Rugby in accordance with local needs and national policy will ensure the safe, solid, supportive service that uses and cares need and want is available.

Sandy Taylor, OBE
Chief Executive
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust