

Warwickshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

17 July 2012

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update on Strategic Review

Recommendation

That the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board notes and endorses the collaborative working being undertaken to redesign the Warwickshire Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Waiting times for CAMHS have been a matter of concern for a number of years. These concerns have been raised at Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ASC&HOSC) a number of times. Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) constructed a robust action plan to improve specific aspects of their services as a result of the ASC&HOSC Select Committee investigation (September 2010) and subsequent recommendations for improvement.
- 1.2 In 2010/11 NHS Warwickshire applied a Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) incentive to reduce the referral to treatment waiting time to a maximum of 14 weeks. Waiting times were reducing and when aggregated over the twelve month period just over 50% of patients were seen within the 14 week maximum waiting time target for treatment.
- 1.3 In February 2012 the CAMHS commissioner reported a number of CAMHS related concerns to ASC&HOSC including a notable rise again in waiting times. In consequence CWPT were asked to report to the April 2012 ASC&HOSC meeting with accurate CAMHS waiting times data and a revised action plan for addressing them. CWPT was also asked to attend ASC&HOSC again in September 2012 to report upon the completion of these actions and their impact upon waiting times.
- 1.4 The Committee also agreed to the recommendation that the CAMHS Commissioning Manager should report back in September with the results of a benchmarking exercise, comparing CWPT's performance against statistical neighbours. In addition the Commissioning Manager should report back with the results of the exercise to explore alternative means of addressing waiting times by testing the market, and through this possible renegotiation of the contract with CWPT, will also be reported.

2.0 Progress to date

- 2.1 Commissioners are supportive of the approach CWPT has taken to drive improvements in Warwickshire's specialist child and adolescent mental health services. CWPT has to date shown unprecedented efforts in not only reducing the number of children on the waiting list by enhancing capacity but by simultaneously undertaking service redesign to sustain performance, maximise efficiency and ensure appropriate and timely care.
- 2.2 A key element of the service redesign is that of data quality and validation; this is critical so that CWPT is able to provide and sustain real time information about activity and performance and flex capacity to meet need.
- 2.3 Autistic Spectrum diagnostic work involves a number of different providers and initial pathway redesign work suggests that a proportion of the assessment work be undertaken by community paediatricians to allow CWPT's clinical psychologists to work with the more complex cases. Further work to understand the impact upon resources of alternative pathways is still to be scoped.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps

- 3.1 The intervention of the ASC&HOSC has provided the necessary leverage to precipitate concerted efforts from CWPT to begin to resolve the recurring waiting times issue in a way which includes redesigning and planning for sustained and longer term changes.
- 3.2 CWPT has been asked to report back to ASC & HOSC in September regarding the implementation and outcomes of its transformation plan to improve services and drive down waiting times.
- 3.3 The CAMHS Commissioning Manager will report to the September ASC&HOSC with baseline data from statistical neighbours CAMHS services to allow the Committee to draw comparisons with the performance of Warwickshire CAMHS. In addition the Commissioning Manager shall report back with the results of an exercise to explore alternatives means of addressing waiting times by testing the market, and through this possible renegotiation of the contract with CWPT.

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