

Cabinet

6 March 2025

Provision of Integrated Mental Health Services for Adults

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Agrees to a further Partnership Agreement between Warwickshire County Council and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust for the provision of integrated community mental health and social care services for adults, for a term of 5 years from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2030.
2. Authorises the Executive Director for Social Care and Health to enter into appropriate agreements on terms and conditions acceptable to the Executive Director for Resources as described in this report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council (the Council) and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (the Trust) have provided integrated community mental health and social care services under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 since 2010. The arrangements involve the delegation of specified statutory social care functions to be delivered by the Trust and the secondment of Council staff to the Trust.
- 1.2 Coventry City Council has had a similar arrangement, which includes aligned governance arrangements, with the Trust since 2011. There is significant collaboration between the Trust and both Councils (WCC and CCC) to ensure consistency across the ICS footprint, while accommodating local variations to address the distinct needs of the local populations.
- 1.3 Both Councils and the Trust remain committed to integrated working practices as a means for delivering joined up support to people with mental ill health across Coventry & Warwickshire. The S75 agreement continues to provide a suitable vehicle through which to deliver this and to meet the national expectations for integrated care provision and it is proposed that this be extended for a further period of 5 years.

2. The Partnership Arrangements

- 2.1 A Section 75 Partnership Agreement provides the legal framework to underpin the joint working in Adult and Older People's Mental Health Services. Staffing and service delivery arrangements are integrated. This enables mental health services to be delivered through clinical pathways supported through trusted assessment practices. Although the service delivery elements are integrated, the financial responsibilities for health and social care remain separate with this separation to continue under the ongoing arrangements proposed in this report.
- 2.2 The overall responsibility for day-to-day management of the integrated community mental health service rests with the Trust. The Council retains a Mental Health Management Team, directly accountable to the Council, which provides social care management and professional support to seconded social care employees.
- 2.3 The operation of the Partnership is overseen by the S75 Strategic Board (a senior officer level board) and its associated Groups: Operational Group, Safeguarding Sub- Group, and Performance Sub-Group. All groups have clear Terms of Reference and include representatives from both Councils and the Trust.

3. Future of the Partnership

- 3.1 The S75 Strategic Board has a process of annual review, which includes an overview of performance over the previous 12 months and plans for the coming years of the Partnership. This results in an annual report, the most recent version of which is available here: [Section 75 Annual Report 2023 24](#)
- 3.2 The partnership's successes of the last year include:
 - the introduction of a new social care offer,
 - the conclusion of the Community Mental Health Transformation Programme,
 - a range of quality improvement projects and continued progress towards reducing health inequalities,
 - implementation of revised ways of working and specialist pathways across both health and social care community services,
 - collaborative working across the system to improve the mental health urgent care offer,
 - continuing efforts to reduce unnecessary admissions to hospital,
 - investment into local Voluntary and Community sector organisations,
 - enabling greater access to mental health support from a wider network of organisations across ICS area through an Innovation Fund.
- 3.3 As system partners, the formation of Integrated Care Boards has placed further obligations on our respective organisations to work more closely

together. The Coventry and Warwickshire S75 Partnership has been recognised by other national stakeholders for its tenacity and commitment to making these arrangements work and is seen as one of the few areas nationally where the partnership is undergoing continuous improvement. It is within this context that all partners wish to share their vision to continue to build on the positive relationships that exist, acknowledging the challenges, whilst learning from experiences to create a partnership which other areas look to for best practice.

- 3.4 The delivery of care through integrated working and the development of joint interventions continues to support the Council's objectives and priorities. The primary focus remains on achieving better outcomes for individuals, reducing hospital admissions through early intervention, and emphasising prevention and community-based alternatives. The integrated model has also led to the creation of additional NHS-funded social care mental health roles in Warwickshire, aligning with the partnership's aspirations and the renewed national focus on mental health.
- 3.5 The transformation of local mental health services has been successfully implemented. The teams now function within a North & South Warwickshire place delivery model, featuring geographically aligned teams rather than those defined by diagnosis.
- 3.6 Further efforts are necessary to ensure that delegated social care functions are appropriately balanced with health priorities. Additionally, there is a need for greater clarity regarding how the respective responsibilities for health and social care are discharged by the roles within the teams. The development of Social Interventions as a discrete pathway continues, building on the successful implementation of this approach within Crisis Services.
- 3.7 Having carefully considered the output from the annual review and the options for continuation of the Partnership, the S75 Board has concluded that for users of community mental health services, the benefits of integration continue to outweigh the alternative of services separated by location, design, and purpose.

4. The Agreement

- 4.1 The S75 Agreement has been in its current format for a number of years. Partners have identified necessary changes to ensure that it remains fit for purpose for the next five years.
- 4.2 In preparation for a new agreement, a comprehensive review of the operational schedules has been completed. It is expected that the termination provisions which allow either party to the Agreement to terminate it on 6

months' written notice (or shorter in the case of breach or unsatisfactory performance) will continue.

- 4.3 Assurance for the respective partner organisations on delivery of the delegated functions will continue to be provided through the S75 Annual Report, which will report on progress towards partnership objectives and provide confirmation that delegated duties are being delivered as per local authority requirements.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The S75 Agreement does not require any transfer of resources or pooling of budgets between Warwickshire County Council and Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust. Resourcing of the service is supported by recharges between the organisations with regard to elements of staffing costs, management costs and administration costs which will continue throughout the life of the agreement, with the council's contributions being met from within approved budgets..

6. Environmental Implications

None

7. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 7.1 The current S75 Partnership arrangements are due to expire on 31st March 2025, and so a decision from Cabinet to renew the arrangements is required in advance of the expiry date. The renewed S75 Agreement with CWPT will be implemented from 1st April 2025 for a term of 5 years.

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A – county-wide report

Other members: Chair and Spokes of Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillors Jo Barker, John Holland, Tracey Drew, and Kate Rolfe)