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3 June 2011

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Dear Cllr Rufus

Congratulations on your appointment to chair the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I thought it would be helpful to update the Brighton & Hove HOSC on developments at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. I shall be joining your meeting on 15th June along with Dr Mandy Assin, Clinical Director and Sam Allen, Service Director. We look forward to answering any questions that committee members may have.

Dementia Services

Improving services for people with dementia is right at the top of our list of priorities at Sussex Partnership. We are working closely with commissioners at the PCT and Council as well as with our provider colleagues at Sussex Community and BSUH. We are all determined to develop integrated services that recognise people's physical and mental health go hand in hand together. Developments are at the planning stage and include:

- In-reach into care homes by mental health professionals due to go live in July
- Improving psychiatric liaison services through Integrated Discharge arrangements from Royal Sussex County Hospital
- Memory assessment services
- Reducing the use of anti-psychotic medication
- Specialist community dementia services
- Admission to Nevill Hospital when required

Mill View Hospital

Work is now just about complete to upgrade the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (Pavilion Ward) and the ward will re-open this month. This will enable us to then increase acute bed availability. We are working with NHS Brighton and Hove to make sure we have the right level of bed availability for the City. As community services continue to improve we will certainly become less reliant on inpatient beds. At the same time we will make sure that there is always a bed for anyone who clinically needs admission. There is a local group chaired by Dr Mandy Assin and Sam Allen. The group is focusing on high impact changes including:

- An urgent referral service for GPs
- Reducing length of stay and sustaining current admission rates
- Improving care for people with a personality disorder
- Meeting the needs of carers
- An assessment and treatment centre for people with more severe and complex mental health problems
- Intensive case management using a recovery approach
- Services open to adults of all ages based on need

Community Mental Health Services

Improved performance, previously reported to the HOSC, has been sustained. While there are important areas where there is continued focus on improving performance the vast majority of targets are being met (April 2011 data).

- 7 day follow up – no breaches in last 3 months
- Delayed transfers of care below 7.5% (5.8% working age, 3.4% older people)
- 100% admissions screened by crisis resolution and home treatment team who have treated 70 people in April against a target of 50
- Early Intervention in Psychosis team treating 135 people against a target of 135
- Assertive outreach team treating 103 people against a target of 120
- In April 33 out of 34 urgent referrals seen within 4 hours and over 53% of 443 non-urgent seen within 4 weeks. All other services >99% - CAMHS, older people, learning disability and recovery
- 99% of people received their treatment within 18 weeks
- 7 out of 7 'long term' service users re-referred by their GP seen in 7 days
- 172 referrals received by the liaison team at RSCH – 19 emergency (0 breach) – 104 urgent (0 breach >24 hr) – 40 non-urgent from general wards) (5 > 72 hrs)
- Use of routine outcome measures introduced (>90% completed for adults)

Mental Health Access Service

We have all recognised for some time that access services in Brighton & Hove need redesigning. There is no doubt that practitioners are providing excellent care while feeling huge pressure. The difficulty stems from the current service model not being close enough to primary care. Our clinicians have actively worked with the GPs and Commissioners who have designed this new primary mental health care service model. As the provider responsible for delivering the current service we have built up useful experience and insights and these have positively influenced the design of the new service. Our clinicians have been grateful for this opportunity and we are now actively involved in the tendering process. As this is a competitive process commercial confidentiality makes it difficult to discuss our plans at this stage.

Sussex Partnership also provides children and young peoples mental health services, secure and forensic mental health services, substance misuse services and specialist learning disability services for Brighton and Hove resident. Further details are available on request.

With best wishes



Dr Richard Ford
Executive Director of Strategic Development

cc. Dr Mandy Assin
Sam Allen
Lorraine Reid