

Community Mental Health Services Review Update for May HOSC Meeting

Background

As reported to the January HOSC Meeting, formal consultation on proposals to improve the provision of Community Mental Health Services in Brighton & Hove ended on 16th January 2012. This exercise was led by the Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group's joint mental health commissioning team on behalf of the Local Authority and PCT.

The services involved in this consultation were:-

- Advice & Information
- Outreach Support
- One to One & Group Support
- Day Services
- Employment Support

Outlined below is the information taken to the 20th February meeting of the Joint Commissioning Board, where approval was given to proceed with the following:-

- Extend all existing contracts within the framework of the review to 31st March 2013 (at which point they will terminate)
- Develop specifications and outcome-based performance indicators for new services
- Agree the preferred route to obtaining new services (e.g. by procurement or grants process or a mixture of both)

February JCB papers can be found at:

<http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ieAgenda.aspx?A=3311>

A further paper was presented to the Joint Commissioning Board on 23rd April where approval was given to the following:-

- New services to be commissioned via the prospectus route
- Draft specifications (provided in the report) to be developed for use in the prospectus

March JCB papers can be found at:-

<http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=3312&x=1>

Consultation

A large number of people from a cross-section of the community took the opportunity to engage with the consultation process, including around 450 responses via the online and hard-copy survey/questionnaire.

It was evident from the feedback received that community mental health support services are highly valued by the local community but there was a recognition that improvements could be made to the way that some services worked individually as well as together as part of whole system.

Commissioning Intentions

As a result of our findings, we intend to commission services which will deliver the following:-

Information & Advice

- Face to face mental health information in a greater range of community settings.
- An on-line mental health information facility.

One to one and group support

- One to One & Group Support that will provide psycho social support to help build community and individual resilience to manage mental health difficulties and improve wellbeing.
The services will:
 - Have a clear pathway into the new Primary Care Mental Health service
 - Include an integral out-reach function

Outreach Support

- Outreach services for the most excluded groups. The top 5 groups identified through the consultation were:
 - Men with a high risk of poor mental health
 - Homeless/rough sleepers
 - LGBT communities
 - Older people
 - Refugees/asylum seekers
- Outreach services that are integrated with other mental health services including one to one and group services.

Day Services

- Two Mental Health Day Centres in Brighton and Hove.
- Day service activities which will be provided in a range of other community settings such as community halls to enable more choice for people.
- Day services where a key function will be to provide social, creative and educational activities to help people in their recovery from their mental illness as well as enabling those with more enduring problems to maintain stability by providing a safe and supportive space.

Employment Support

- Employment support that helps people stay in work as well as find work.
- Employment support as an integral part of other services (e.g. Day Services)

Procurement v. prospectus

We investigated the potential advantages of using a prospectus approach rather than the full procurement process. This is the direction of travel within the Brighton & Hove Local Authority and has been used successfully to commission voluntary and community services by other joint commissioning organisations (e.g. East Sussex). This system results in the award of 'Funding Agreements' containing terms and conditions which mirror those of normal contracts; performance indicators are based on desired outcomes measured in terms of Quality, Cost and Social Capital. The process of bidding is less onerous than with full procurement (both for commissioners and providers) and will, therefore, not discourage or preclude smaller organisations from taking part. It also allows greater innovation from prospective service providers and more input into shaping new services. Formal discussion with current community voluntary sector providers suggests that they too favour of this approach.

Service User Involvement

Service users have been kept informed of our intentions and progress over the last few months and we have received favourable feedback.

A key message is that changes will not happen immediately; all current services will continue until 31st March 2013. Where changes do take place, there will be a transition phase of several months when service users will be helped to start using the new services with minimum disruption to their existing routine and level of support.

Service users and carers will be involved in the evaluation of the Social Capital Element of bids. Participation is being sought through our existing 3rd Sector Service User Group, the MIND Voluntary Sector Engagement Service (LIVE) and the Equalities and Engagement Forum.

High Level Milestone Plan

Activity	End Date
Prospectus launched	May 2012
Bids evaluated	September 2012
CCG/Council approval of new providers	October 2012
New Funding Agreements in place	November 2012
Handover/transition plans in place	December 2012
New services begin	April 2013

