

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

PAPER FOR DORSET HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Older Peoples Mental Health

This paper provides an update on Transforming Mental Health Services for Older People in the east of the county and the progress of a wider roll out to the west of Dorset

PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper will provide an update on changes made to Mental Health Services for Older People in Dorset.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to note the progress made and any further specific work to be undertaken.

AUTHORS

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Dorset HealthCare and the former Primary Care Trust (PCT) cluster worked collaboratively to develop a modernised model of care for older people with organic mental health conditions in the east of Dorset. This reconfiguration was taken to the pan Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee as it affects people across Dorset.
- 1.2 The system had been characterised by high levels of beds and little support for people to remain in the community which did not encourage people to maintain as much independence as possible.

- 1.3 The service model looked at reducing beds and used the cost efficiencies to invest in an intermediate care service and significant improvements to the environment and increased staffing ratios at the Alderney site.
- 1.4 This briefing provides an update on the reconfiguration in the east as these services are accessed by people in Christchurch and east Dorset (although accessible to all the Dorset population). It also updates the Committee on the current status of the plan for development in the west.

2.0 Intermediate Care East

- 2.1 The Intermediate Care Service for Dementia patients (ICSD) was established to provide enhanced levels of community support for patients with dementia. The team assess patients for admission to acute assessment wards and aim to stop unnecessary admission into inpatient settings. Services are provided seven days a week. The anticipated caseload from 1 April 2013, was for 12 patients; each receiving intermediate care for up to 6 weeks.
- 2.2 Dorset HealthCare has been actively recruiting to this team and it will be fully staffed by end of October as the successful candidates for the entry level nursing positions, recruited from Bournemouth University, are awaiting their final registration prior to commencing employment.
- 2.3 Creation of the ICSD team has enabled the Trust to manage more patients in the community resulting in fewer patients, who are not detained under the Mental Health Act (informal), being admitted to wards. This means that the majority of people admitted are suffering more acute forms of illness and are usually subject to detention under the Mental Health Act. Previously wards had 50% informal patients with 50% being admitted under section.
- 2.4 The ICSD team play a role in supporting early discharge of patients from acute treatment helping to prevent delayed discharge. In addition to the ICSD service, an in-reach team has been established to liaise closely with and support nursing homes.

3.0 Consolidation of Older Peoples In-Patients Service - East

- 3.1 The consolidation of older peoples units in east Dorset is due to take place over a two week period at the end of September, when clients at Kings Park will be moved to the modernised site at Alderney. The building is due for completion and handover mid September and, based on current progress, the Trust is not anticipating any delays to this transition. The ICSD currently based at Kings Park will also move to Alderney which will promote strong joint working.
- 3.2 The recent recruitment drive undertaken by the Trust has resulted in a number of new staff being appointed, and these are due to start in October as they are mostly newly qualified staff awaiting Nursing Midwifery Council Registration.

3.3 There continue to be vacancies due to an identified lack of interest in nursing older people and the Trust is working with Bournemouth University to try and resolve this, including reviewing the nursing curriculum to include greater emphasis on nursing of older people with organic mental health conditions . This is also a national issue and both the commissioner and the Trust will be seeking to influence this where possible.

4.0 Review of Services (West)

4.1 The intended review of services in the west of Dorset will commence when an evaluation of the new services in the east has been completed by end August 2014. The Trust and CCG are keen to ensure that any changes in the west are based on best practice and reflect the lessons learned in the east.

4.2 Initial impressions are that the ICSD is a highly productive team and that services have been successful.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee are asked to note the update on the progress of the transformation of Older Peoples Mental Health Services. The Trust and CCG would be pleased to present the findings of the evaluation report when this is completed.