

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **24th September 2009**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Strategy for Older People's Mental Health Services**

Purpose of report: **To update HOSC on the local strategy for Older People's Mental Health Service, including the implications of the new National Dementia Strategy.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HOSC is recommended to:**

### **1. Consider and comment on the strategy for Older People's Mental Health Services.**

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#### **1. Background**

1.1 In June 2008 HOSC received a presentation on the local strategy for older people's mental health services. The presentation was given by representatives of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and East Sussex County Council's Adult Social Care department, with input from NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald/NHS Hastings and Rother, reflecting the partnership working required across these organisations to successfully plan and deliver these services.

1.2 HOSC noted that two thirds of all NHS beds are occupied by people aged 65 or over, with up to 66% of these people either having or will develop a mental health problem during their stay. (The figure is 78% in East Sussex.). These statistics highlighted the importance of older people's mental health services for the county.

1.3 HOSC also noted that a national dementia strategy was due to be published in the Autumn of 2008 and this would be a significant development with implications for the local strategy and services. The committee therefore requested an update on older people's mental health strategy, including the implications of the national dementia strategy in September 2009.

#### **2. National Dementia Strategy**

2.1 The first ever national dementia strategy for improving health and social care services in England for everyone with dementia and their carers was published by the Department of Health in February 2009.

2.2 The strategy has 3 key steps to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers:

- Ensure better knowledge about dementia and remove stigma
- Ensure early diagnosis, support and treatment for people with dementia and their family and carers
- Develop services to meet changing needs better.

2.3 The 17 objectives of the strategy include:

- Raise awareness of dementia and encourage people to seek help
- Easy access to care support and advice after diagnosis
- Improve community personal support services for people living at home
- Improve the quality of care for people with dementia in general hospitals
- Improve intermediate care for people with dementia

- Consider how housing support, housing-related services, technology and telecare can help support people with dementia and their carers
- Improve the quality of care for people with dementia in care homes
- Improve community personal support services for people living at home
- Improve end of life care for people with dementia

2.3 It is expected that local NHS organisations will integrate the priorities and commitments outlined in the national document into local strategies and services.

### **3. Local Strategy**

3.1 An update presentation on local strategy for older people's mental health services with a particular focus on the impact of the National Dementia Strategy is attached at appendix 1. Nigel Hussey, PCT Commissioning Manager and Lead on older people's mental health, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald/NHS Hastings and Rother, Martin Packwood, Joint Commissioning Manager for Mental Health, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald/NHS Hastings and Rother /ESCC Adult Social Care and Neil Waterhouse, Director of Service Director Older People's Mental Health Services, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will present to HOSC and take questions.

1.5 HOSC may wish to consider issues such as:

- Whether the plans for communication about the comprehensive care pathway are sufficiently robust.
- Degree of confidence within the services for meeting future demand for dementia services from an increasingly elderly population.
- How can the range of available services be better co-ordinated and achieve greater effect.
- When the 'State of Readiness' Review talks of 'significant investment being required at all stages in response to currently unmet need', how are funding issues being approached.
- Whether measures to ensure early diagnosis are effective e.g. is there any data on this?
- Response from GPs to the National Dementia Strategy and their concerns.
- Issues surrounding equality of service across the county.

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