

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

Date: **20th November 2009**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Better by Design – improvement programme for mental health services**

Purpose of report: **To present HOSC with the Better by Design Strategy - a five year service improvement programme for all mental health services in Sussex**

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to:

- 1. Consider and comment on the Better by Design Strategy and the impact it will have on mental health services within East Sussex and for the residents of East Sussex**
 - 2. Determine how the committee wishes to monitor the development of the strategy and associated public consultation**
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1. Background

1.1 *Better by Design* is Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (SPT) service improvement programme for the next five years. It aims to improve upon existing standards for mental health provision across Sussex and develop a range of services that will meet people's mental health needs in the future, whilst meeting financial responsibilities in a difficult economic climate. It covers all care groups and services.

1.2 A number of regional and national policy drivers exist including effective treatment at home for people in a mental health crisis; targeting the root causes of mental illness; early recognition and treatment; more choice of care available in the community; ensuring health and social care works together effectively; and the personalisation of services.

1.3 Coupled with local issues such as the ability of some buildings to offer a therapeutic, safe and welcoming environment and feedback from local service users on the kinds of services they want, the strategy states that mental health services in Sussex need to change.

2. Better by Design proposals

2.1 The *Better by Design* document (attached at Appendix 1) introduces the rationale for the change programme and outlines the patient-centred outcomes it aims to deliver including:

- Improved access pathways into mental health services
- Earlier intervention in the treatment of mental health conditions
- A wider range of community based services, closer to home and at home
- Reconfiguration of inpatient services
- Enhanced specialist services focusing on the needs of under-served people
- Broader services between hospital and home
- Fewer, better buildings

2.2 The first two years of *Better by Design* will focus on working age adult and older people's services starting with inpatient care. In summary, the proposals suggest an overall reduction of around 100 beds across Sussex.

2.3 SPT has suggested an approach for pre-consultation, public consultation and consultation feedback on these proposals, with public consultation commencing in January 2010. Follow up papers to HOSC are planned:

- Community, Specialist and Acute Community Teams Proposals (March 2010)
- Day Services, Day Hospitals and Residential Unit Proposals (July 2010)

2.4 HOSC is being asked to comment on the detailed service and consultation plans as they evolve, and possibly to do so outside its normal cycle of quarterly meetings.

3. Issues to consider

3.1 Following the SPT briefing in June 2008, HOSC will be familiar with the overall theme of reducing the number of inpatient beds and shifting to more community based services. However the reduction of 100 beds across Sussex may be larger than previously understood and may impact upon other services being provided. Therefore, whilst some of the high level themes set out in *Better by Design* may be familiar, some of the proposed service changes may not.

3.2 *Better by Design* is a Sussex wide programme and is anticipated to result in changes to services and service delivery within East Sussex. Services and service delivery outside East Sussex may also change and impact on East Sussex service users and residents.

3.3 Kate Noakes, Assistant Director - Change Management, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will present a report on the 'Better by Design' strategy and consultation plans. Russell Hackett, Director of Business Development, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will be in attendance.

3.4 HOSC may wish to consider:

- Whether the *Better by Design* strategy overall and/or its component parts represents changes to services and/or to the way services are to be delivered within East Sussex and for East Sussex residents.
- If so:
 - How does HOSC wish to be consulted on the development and implementation of the strategy in the context of the timeframes set out; and
 - How does HOSC want to consider the results of public consultations and subsequent responses
- What are HOSCs views on the plans for public consultation including:
 - How many service users will be affected
 - Whether all appropriate groups and audiences are included in the consultation plan
 - How users of services are being involved in the development of the service model
 - How front-line staff are being involved in the development of the service model
 - Whether appropriate methods are being used to inform the public of developments
 - How groups who may be harder to reach are being informed and engaged
 - How long is the consultation period, and is it adequate
- When is the change programme going to be implemented
- As *Better by Design* is a Sussex wide programme, how can HOSC most effectively liaise with other Sussex HOSCs i.e. West Sussex and Brighton and Hove on pan-Sussex issues?

ANDREW OGDEN
Director of Law and Personnel

Contact officer: Lisa Schrevel, Scrutiny Lead Officer Telephone: 01273 481327