

Background:

In early 2008, following the successful trial of two community – based services funded by the Partnerships for Older Peoples Services initiative, proposals in support of continuing to provide the services were submitted by East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to the HOSC.

The services in question were;
The Memory Assessment and Support Team (MAST) and
The Intensive Home Treatment Service (IHT).

Funding available from the DoH POPPS scheme was due to come to an end, Qualitative and quantitative evaluations of the two schemes demonstrated high levels of user satisfaction and the Intensive Home Treatment Service was shown to have a significant impact in reducing the both the number of admissions to organic assessment beds and the length of stay of those individuals who were admitted.

Commissioners and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust proposed that the Memory Assessment and Support Team and the Intensive Home Treatment Services should be commissioned.

Funding should be made available by reallocation of budgets through the reduction/ removal of bed-stock at the Beechwood Unit based in Uckfield Community Hospital.

Consultation with East Sussex County Council HOSC and a wide range of local stake - holders took place in July and August 2008.

Memory Assessment and Support Team.

MAST was commissioned as a mainstream service in September 2008 in the Bexhill area.

Good practices established by MAST have been developed and operationalised in mental health services in other areas of East – Sussex, where local day and community services have re-modelled pre-existing services. These developments include enhancing assessment practices, developing psychological and social interventions and closer working with Alzheimer's Society outreach workers to provide a wider range of supportive interventions and networks.

In April 2009 Commissioners undertook a review of dementia services in East Sussex to establish the “state of readiness” for the implementation of the national Dementia Strategy.

The Memory Assessment and Support Team model received very positive feed-back from the report.

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust plans to use the model as a cornerstone for the development of memory Services across Sussex.

IN CONFIDENCE

The Intensive Home Treatment Service

The Intensive Home Treatment Service was mainstreamed in September 2008. The service is available across East Sussex and is managed as an integral part of local Community Mental Health Teams, providing home-based treatment services between the hours of 8am and 8pm, each day of the year.

Beechwood Unit, Uckfield

Beechwood unit has continued to operate with 12 beds in order to maintain capacity in the whole OPMHS system whilst Milton Court is closed for refurbishment.

Sussex Partnership Trust has used its bed-stock as flexibly as possible during this period. Careful planning has reduced the number of delayed transfers of care significantly, maintaining capacity in bed-services

As predicted, there have been some occasions when inpatients have needed to be admitted to St Anne's Centre in Hastings. Where ever possible, individuals have been returned to the unit that is closest to their home or relatives as soon as it has been possible and safe to do so.

During the period October 08 – July 09, the total number of admissions across all services was 214.

Thirteen individuals, who would previously have been admitted to Beechwood, have been admitted to St Anne's Centre.

Twenty two individuals who would formally have been admitted to Milton Court have been admitted to Beechwood Unit

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is exploring potential for development of in-patient and day services at a site in Eastbourne. Plans are well developed and will include accommodation for in – patient assessment and treatment services for both working age and older people in East Sussex.

Milton Court, Eastbourne

East Sussex County Council works to upgrade Milton Court are progressing. The unit will provide a range of day and bed based services for older people with mental health problems including dementia. Services will be available from the autumn of 2009. Some services will be provided in partnership with or supported by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.