

BRIEFING PAPER on Mental Health Services for Older people

Introduction

Consideration is currently being given to the need to review the Older Adult Mental Health Service (OAMH) to develop a service that is fit for the future.

The paper gives some detail of the current in-patient provision, the financial cost of that service provision and the current policy drivers that indicate a review should be undertaken.

Current Bedded Provision

There are six inpatient facilities within Sussex Partnership NHS Trust – East Sussex Locality, Mental Health Services for Older Adults. In total the service provides 114 inpatient beds across the locality.

These inpatient areas and functions are set out in the table below

Facility	No. of beds	Type of care	Type of provision
Homefield Place Day Care Dom. Care	16 (max)	Functional illness	NHS inpatient Social Services Day Care <i>Shared running costs</i>
Beechwood Unit	20 (max)	Organic illness	NHS inpatient <i>Trust met costs</i>
Heathfield Unit	24 (max)	Functional illness	NHS inpatient <i>Trust met costs</i>
Milton Court Day Care	18 (max)	Organic illness	NHS inpatient Social Services Day Care and respite beds <i>Shared running costs</i>
St Annes St Gabriel Ward St Raphael Ward	18 (max) 18 (max)	Organic Illness Functional Illness	NHS inpatient NHS inpatient <i>Trust met costs</i>

Future provision of services

The White Paper *Our health, our care, our say* gives very clear direction of how future services should be designed and creates the opportunity to align the planning, commissioning and delivery of health and care for older people bringing mental health out of the silo position it has historically occupied. Professor Ian Philp, National Director for Older People, welcomed the white paper saying, “*Not only can we improve outcomes for older people’s health, independence and well-being. We can also save money by reducing the overall demand for expensive hospital and long term care services*”.

The new OAMH service development guide, *Everybody's Business*, builds on the service models outlined in the National Service Framework for Older People and the principles promoted in *Securing better mental health for older adults*, in describing the foundations and key elements of a comprehensive older adult's mental health service. The Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection have identified *Everybody's Business* as a benchmark for mental health services and will use it to aid their inspection processes. The new Department of Health resource document, *A New Ambition for Old Age*, sets out the next steps in implementing the National Service Frameworks for Older People. The document sets out ten implementation programmes. Programme five addresses *Mental Health in Old Age*, and one of its four main aims is:

"To secure comprehensive specialist mental health services for older adults, with a particular emphasis on community mental health teams, memory assessment clinics and liaison services".

The resultant drive for this care group is to move from bed-based services to more community driven models that provide locally based care.

Given these policy drivers, it is clear that OAMH services in East Sussex need to consider the move from a bed dependant model of care to a community based model that offers greater choice and puts service users and carers in a position of greater responsibility with more control over their care and support. The current gaps in community services include:-

- rapid response/crisis response services
- specific and distinct functional / organic focussed services,
- psychological therapies
- liaison with generalist and acute services
- allied health professions within services
- equity of provision in memory services
- carer assessment and support

Achieving a more modern and choice focused model would involve extensive redesign of existing service provision and re-engineering of existing resources.

Therefore the planning of a joint review all existing OAMH services within East Sussex with a view to reducing dependence on inpatient services is being considered. It is anticipated that such a review would facilitate a new service model, new multi professional ways of working with a likely reduction in the number of inpatient beds.

A report is being taken to Cabinet in November which will propose a review of all Adult Social Care directly provided services. This will include consideration of a joint review of all OAMH joint services.

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