

Consultation on Improving Mental Health Services in Cumbria

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Recommendation: that the Committee consider how it wishes to be part of the public consultation by Cumbria Primary Care Trust on Improving Mental Health Services in Cumbria.

BACKGROUND

The Committee may recall that the Cumbria Primary Care Trust (PCT) has been proposing to review mental health service throughout Cumbria. The proposals were put on hold due to the recent local elections in some parts of Cumbria but the PCT has now confirmed that the consultation period on these proposals will start on 9 June 2008 and run to 30 September 2008.

The PCT has produced a briefing paper on the proposals for all the local authorities in Cumbria and a copy of that is at Appendix "A".

The Committee is invited to consider how the council should engage in this consultation process and what role this committee should take as part of that process.

The Committee took a two pronged approach to the Closer to Home proposals through inviting the PCT to an initial meeting and then doing an evidence session day with a number of witness to fully explore the evidence to help formulate the council's response back to the PCT.

Cumbria County Council has set up a Task and Finish Group of its Health and Well being Scrutiny Committee which includes one councillor from each area directly affected (i.e. each District except Eden), namely

Simon Leyton (County - Copeland)
John Hunter (District - Allerdale)
Sandra Fisher (District - Carlisle)
Helen Horne (County - Carlisle)
Jill Heath (District - Barrow)
John Hemingway (County - S Lakeland).

Bearing in mind the recent protocol on health localities scrutiny between the county council and the borough/district councils there may be some scope for the committee to feed into the county's review if it so wishes.

List of Appendices

Appendix "A" – Cumbria Primary Care Trust letter Consultation on Improving
Mental Health Services in Cumbria.

List of Background Documents:

None