

Briefing Paper

CUMBRIA PRIMARY CARE TRUST

**CONSULTATION ON IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN
CUMBRIA**

The PCT is to launch a public consultation on changes in mental health services on 9th June. The consultation will close on 30th September. This note is to provide advance briefing about the consultation and the proposals which will be set out in the consultation document.

Over the last few years there has been substantial progress in developing strengthened community services – both for people with common mental health problems (the expanding primary mental health service) and for people with more severe illness (e.g. 24/7 crisis resolution and home treatment services). The PCT, Adult Social Care and Cumbria Partnership Trust are committed to the continuing development of these services in the immediate future. Plans are in place and the resources are being made available.

In parallel with this we now need to ensure that inpatient and residential services are of the necessary scale and quality to complement the community services. We also need to ensure that the available resources in both the NHS and Local Authority can be used to produce the best possible outcome for those with long term and potentially disabling illness. This consultation presents a number of specific proposals to meet these objectives. The proposals have been developed in conjunction with service users and carers, clinicians and partner agencies.

The PCT, together with its partners, wants to develop an innovative programme to promote mental health and well being, shifting the emphasis from treatment to more positive promotion and prevention. There is also a need to develop improved mental health services for children and adolescents and to develop a wider range of more specialist services. These are key priorities and they are being worked on. They will be the subject of engagement with key stakeholders and, where necessary, will be part of further consultation processes. They therefore are not part of this consultation.

The particular proposals upon which we will be consulting now are:

- **Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit**
Currently there are six beds in Carlisle and access to four in Lancaster. The latter are often not available and placements have to be found further away. The proposal is for a ten bed unit in Carlisle with improved levels of therapeutic input.
- **Inpatient services for people with Acute Functional Mental Illness (e.g. schizophrenia)**
The proposal is to retain the current provision in Carlisle; develop the planned new ten bed unit in the West; merge to wards in Barrow to create a single twenty bed unit; retain the current ten bed unit in Kendal and work with

stakeholders to identify a longer term solution which resolves the limitations of its present ward setting.

- **Inpatient Services for People with Severe Organic Mental Illness (e.g. dementia)**

The proposal is to reduce the number of isolated units by focussing provision on new units in Barrow and Carlisle. The existing fifteen bed unit in Workington would become an EMI nursing home. Plans would be developed with stakeholders for the reuse of the unit in Ulverston in order to meet other local health care needs.

- **Recovery and Rehabilitation**

The proposal is to develop an in-patient unit in Carlisle in order to enable people placed out of County to return and to expand the range of more domestic style residential provision, in conjunction with the voluntary sector. This would particular apply in Barrow in order to replace the current ten bedded NHS unit (which will be used to meet other local health and social care needs).

The proposal also is to commission daytime activities for people with functional illness from voluntary sector organisations, transferring provision from current NHS providers and creating a more consistent pattern across the County.

- **Pooled Funds**

In order to bring greater benefit to service users and use current resources to best advantage with the voluntary and independent sector, we are proposing the establishing of a pooled fund with Cumbria County Council under section 75 of the NHS Act.

These proposals will be set out in more detail in the Consultation Document, which will be widely distributed and be available in GP surgeries, libraries and other public buildings. A website is to be established providing back up information and linked material.

A detailed programme of consultation activity is being arranged. It is targeted on people who have contact with the services and other key stakeholders. It will also include seven public events. These events will give local people an opportunity to tell us what they think about the specific proposals and, through the market place displays, learn about other services and organisations that support mental health and wellbeing. Light refreshments will be provided. These events will be held on:

Monday 30th June
Market place starts: 2pm

Penrith Methodist Church
Presentation & Q&A: 3pm

Tuesday 1st July
Market place starts: 4.30pm

Washington Central Hotel, Workington
Presentation & Q&A: 6pm

Thursday 3rd July
Market place starts: 2pm

Coronation Hall, Ulverston
Presentation & Q&A: 3pm

Wednesday 9th July Kendal Town Hall
Market place starts: 2pm Presentation & Q&A: 3pm

Thursday 10th July Tullie House Museum, Carlisle*
Market place starts: 4.30pm Presentation & Q&A: 6pm

Wednesday 16th July Forum 28, Barrow in Furness*
Market place starts: 4.30pm Presentation & Q&A: 6pm

Monday, 21st July Civic Hall, Whitehaven
Market place starts: 2pm Presentation & Q&A: 3pm

Specific initiatives are being planned in order to support people respond to the consultation and to reach minority and “hard to reach” groups.

In addition to the planned programme the consultation team will seek to respond to invitations to meet interested groups or speak at other meetings.

The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee has established a task group for the consultation. The PCT will cooperate fully with it and the PCT Board will consider its recommendations before making a decision at the end of the Consultation.

Responses to the consultation will be analysed by the University of Cumbria.

For further information in advance of the launch of the consultation contact the:

Consultation Team
C/o Public Engagement Unit
Cumbria Primary Care Trust
Tenterfield
Brigsteer Road
KENDAL
Cumbria
LA9 5EA

Tel: 01539 797878

Email: publicengagement@cumbriapct.nhs.uk