

MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

(Please note that these are only initial questions and the committee may well wish to ask further questions depending on the answers given).

Questions to MIND

1. What is the main role of Mind?
2. What are your views on the range of choices that exist for service users in Copeland to deal with their mental health needs?
3. Can you explain a bit about the Mind survey 2004 that looked at the amount of people with mental health problems who felt isolated and what the results were for West Cumbria? Do you think the PCT proposals will increase or reduce isolation?
4. In what ways can social care and support prevent mental ill health and avert crises?
5. Is there prejudice against people with mental health problems and the services provided? Is there a role here for local authorities to set an example to the rest of the community: to remove the stigma surrounding mental health issues and to promote mental health well-being throughout the community?
6. Is it true that Mental Health service users have the lowest employment rate of all disabled groups and most are dependent on benefit income? If so what can be done to change this?
7. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has reported that 40 per cent of people who present to their GP with mental health problems feel stigmatised and discriminated against by their GPs. If you agree with this how can it be addressed?
8. What view do you take of the supporting evidence to the consultation? For example do you accept that between now and 2016 the number of people in dementia will increase by about 1,000?
9. Are there any other issues that we need to be aware of when considering this consultation?

Questions to West Cumbria Carers

1. What work is undertaken by West Cumbria Carers?
2. Do you know how many carers are dealing with mental health issues in West Cumbria?
3. What will be the overall effect on carers of these proposals?
4. What specific resources in the community would help you continue caring during a crisis in the evenings and at weekend?

5. Are there sufficient Community Mental Health teams operating in West Cumbria and if not what needs to happen to achieve a suitable number?
6. Do you agree that carer stress is described as one of the most common reasons for people with dementia entering residential/nursing care? Will these proposals address this?
7. Is it a problem that carers tend to ask for very little support and in some cases do not recognise themselves as carers? If so how can this be addressed?
8. What is your view on increased access to GP based services?
9. Are there any other issues that we need to be aware of when considering this consultation?

Questions to Age Concern

1. What work does Age Concern do in supporting older people with mental health problems?
2. Does Age Concern provide any Counselling & Psychological Support Services for older people with mental health problems? If so how is this funded?
3. Are there programmes that promote positive mental health and well-being in later life that you would like to run in conjunction and /or with funding from the PCT or Adult Social Care? If so what are they?
4. Do you think that the consultation proposals will require more travelling particularly to Carlisle? If so what view do you have regarding accessing public transport and the cost of travel?
5. The UK Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life in its 2007 report, "Improving Services and Support for Older People with Mental Health Problems." stated that older people with mental health problems face discrimination in policy, practice and research. Do these proposals address this problem or would you like to see something else being proposed?
6. The Inquiry also stated that prioritising prevention is essential. Many mental health problems in later life can be prevented. Do the PCT proposals address this sufficiently or would you like to see further work being proposed on this?
7. Do you agree with the view that only a small percentage of older people with mental health problems receive help through formal services and therefore the need for support for self help and peer support for older people to help themselves and each other is important? Do the consultation proposals deal with this sufficiently and if not what would you like to see done?
8. The consultation states that a forum is being developed with the third sector providers to enable them to have a more strategic role in the development of services. What is your view on this forum and how it is being developed?

9. Are there any other issues that we need to be aware of when considering this consultation?

Questions to Cumbria PCT and Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust:

1. What are the main objectives of the proposed changes?
2. What is the average bed occupancy rate for the Yewdale Ward and how does this compare nationally?
3. How many unnecessary acute bed days for people with mental health problems in Cumbria were there last year?
4. What are the current waiting times for treatment and access to mental health services in Cumbria and how do these compare nationally?
5. How is Cumbria rated for its Mental Health Care Programme Approach?
6. Do you agree with national reports that indicate that there is a lack of confidence amongst GPs about their ability to recognise and diagnose dementia? How will you ensure that there will be an effective early diagnosis of people with dementia?
7. The consultation stresses recovery and rehabilitation services in the community particularly through the voluntary sector. Does this imply that people who use the services will have to pay? If this is the case is there a risk that this will result in older people becoming isolated?
8. What level of support will be given to people who live at home? Will there be respite care for the carers?
9. What level of funding is provided for Mental Health Services in Cumbria and how does this compare nationally?
10. In what circumstances will funds be pooled and how will you intend to consult stakeholders?
11. The consultation document states that traveling to the new unit for men from West Cumbria will be increased. How will families and carers of individuals who have to go to Carlisle be supported?
12. Will the proposals require training existing staff or attracting new staff to deliver the model of care? If so how will this be achieved?
13. The Alzheimer's Society has stated that the number of people with Dementia is set to soar in North West England with experts forecasting a 33 per cent rise over the next 15 years?

How have you modeled this into your proposals?
14. Do you think there will be a need to increase the number of Community Mental Health Teams as a result of these proposals and if so how will this be achieved?

15. Has an Assertive Outreach and Early Intervention Scheme be tried elsewhere in Cumbria and how well has it worked? When is it planned for West Cumbria?
16. How do you see improvements in joint working with voluntary organizations being achieved?
17. How do you ensure that service users, carers and the public in general know how to access services both in and out of hours?
18. Are there any other issues that we need to be aware of when considering this consultation?

Questions to County Council Adult Social Care:

1. What do you see as the major implications on the Adult Social Care service from the Mental Health proposals?
2. The proposals rely on greater integration of Health and Social Care. How is this going to be achieved?
3. Is there a need for additional funding to cover these implications and will this funding be available?
4. Will there be a need to employ additional specialist or generic staff? If there is how easily will they be recruited? How many vacancies for such staff are there currently in Cumbria?
5. The Commission for Social Care 2006 Inspection of the County Council's Social Care Services for Older People found that the council and its partners had yet to maximise the opportunities to make efficiency gains from whole systems planning and commissioning of services. What work has been done to resolve this?
6. The report also found that there was an uneven distribution of specialist mental health social workers between teams and flexible specialist community services were not being commissioned in some areas. Is this the case in West Cumbria and if so how is it being addressed?
7. Do you consider that the consultation proposals alongside those in the Closer to Home proposals will require more travelling for families and carers? If so what review of day service transport provision has been undertaken to ensure that transport facilities are appropriate and necessary and provided for day centre users?
8. The County Council's Commissioning Strategy for Older People and their Carers 2007 - 2016 states that "We have developed an initial strategy with Cumbria Primary Care Trust, Cumbria NHS Partnership Trust, and the third sector outlining our shared vision and aspirations for how we wish to support older people with mental health needs. This strategy is currently now being updated."

Will this strategy follow the lines set out in this consultation document or will it be proposing something different? What consultation will there be with stakeholders?

9. Are there any other issues that we need to be aware of when considering this consultation?