



PRO-FORMA: CONSULTATION ON SUBSTANTIAL VARIATIONS OR DEVELOPMENTS TO SERVICES

1. Title of Proposal

“Central and Eastern Cheshire Mental Health Inpatient Reconfiguration”

2. One Page Summary of Proposal

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) intends to conduct a consultation exercise, on the reconfiguration of Adult and Older Persons Mental Health Inpatient Services in Central and Eastern Cheshire.

The consultation will cover three key issues;

- 1) The need to invest to make significant improvements in the inpatient environment to meet current standards
- 2) The proposal to provide all Adult and Older Persons inpatient Mental Health services from a single site.
- 3) The introduction of new ways of working which will see further investments in community based services, and as a consequence a reduced requirement for inpatient beds.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to approve this consultation exercise which it is proposed will take place between the beginning of Dec 2009 and the beginning of March 2010.

2a. Outline of Proposal

The proposal refers to all acute Adult and Older Persons Services in Central and Eastern Cheshire. These services will in the future be provided from a single site. The location of this unit is yet to be determined. The recent comprehensive review of how these services should be provided in future indicates that these can be provided from four inpatient wards (two older persons and two adult acute), if further targeted investment is made in community services, and the implementation of new ways of working which have seen effective reductions in admissions and length of stay elsewhere in the trust.

Within the service review, revised care pathways were developed. An analysis was undertaken of each part of the service to identify when patients could have been treated in less restrictive community services if these had been available. The review identified that an enhanced Crisis Resolution Home Treatment (CRHT) service which operates 24 hours each day could reduce admissions. In addition CWP will be introducing the ‘Acute Care Model’ which has proved to be effective in delivering care outside hospital in both Wirral and West Cheshire.

It is recognised that the move to a single site may present access issues for service users and carers. In the event that the location does present transport difficulties this will be addressed with the Local Authority.

2b. Rationale for Proposal

The rationale for the proposal is as follows:

- 1) To improve environmental standards. Current facilities in Leighton Mental Health Unit in Crewe and Millbrook Mental Health Unit in Macclesfield do not meet the current environmental standards required in modern psychiatric practice in respect of privacy, dignity and security. It would be the Trust's intention to provide single bedrooms throughout any future facility, as well as appropriate therapeutic and day care facilities.
- 2) To provide a specialist inpatient unit of sufficient critical mass, with highly trained and well motivated staff to ensure consistent high standards of nursing and medical care. This includes the removal of the need for staff, in particular junior doctors to travel between sites.
- 3) To enable service modernisation which will see a greater emphasis on clinically effective models of community based care.
- 4) To develop a plan to meet the requirement to vacate the Mental Health unit at Leighton. Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which owns the Inpatient Mental Health unit have informed CWP that this site is required for its own strategic development and has served notice for CWP to vacate the premises.
- 5) To enable the most efficient and clinically effective model of care within the available funding.

3. All Options

Option 1- Continue to provide services as at present from the Mental Health units at Leighton and Millbrook

This option is not achievable as CWP has been given notice to vacate the Mental Health unit at Leighton. Irrespective of this the reduction in ward numbers proposed by the revised service proposals would result in issues of clinical safety if inpatient services continue to be provided on 2 sites. Existing wards are also not capable of being redesigned to provide the required environmental improvements.

Option 2- Provide the service at Leighton elsewhere but continue to provide services from 2 main inpatient sites.

This option has been discounted as this would not deliver the required critical mass of services in line with revised service proposals.

Option 3- Provision of all adult and older persons' acute mental health inpatient services from a single site.

This option would see all inpatient services located on a single site. Capital investment would be made to maximise the number of single rooms and to ensure the provision of adequate therapeutic and day care facilities.

The decision as to how this will be provided will be determined by a full economic analysis which will take place after the consultation exercise. This will take into account the financial position of CWP and of the local and national health economies. The critical decision will be whether the Trust is in a position to commit to immediate investment in a new building or should implement its service change proposals by consolidating inpatient services on the Millbrook site.

4. Consultation Process

4a. Consultation Already Undertaken

A Project Team and Project Board have been established with membership from clinicians and managers of services, GPs, PCT and Social services representatives in Central and Eastern Cheshire, Service users and carers and governors.

A series of briefing meetings have been held with staff, service users and local GPs. All Foundation Trust user and carer members were sent a summary of proposals and were given an opportunity to offer their ideas and comments.

Two external reviews have taken place, an SHA review and the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT). The feedback reports from these is awaited.

4b. Proposed Consultation

The Trust and PCT will jointly undertake a full public consultation exercise as outlined above from December 2009 to the beginning of March 2010. Four public meetings are proposed to be held as part of this exercise in Vale Royal, Macclesfield, Crewe and Congleton. At these meetings the Trust will also include the consultation on proposed efficiency initiatives which are subject to a separate but concurrent exercise. In addition arrangements have been made for a full NHS Gateway review in October 2009

5. Timescales

5a. Fixed

CWP have been asked to vacate the Leighton site by April 2011. To achieve this CWP is keen to hold the consultation exercise as soon as possible to allow detailed planning to take place.

5b. Proposed

A detailed summary of proposals will be prepared in the form of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) and presented to the Board of the Trust and the PCT in October. This will include the Case for change, a statement of future clinical services requirements and details as to how the options for taking the project forward will be formulated.

The public consultation exercise will commence in December 2009 and finish at the beginning of March 2010. More specific plans will then be developed which will be influenced by the economic analysis. It is expected that these plans will be available by the end of June 2010.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be kept fully informed as these details are formulated.

25th September 2009