



Report to: Joint Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 11th October 2010
Title of Report: Consultation update re: Proposal to close Willows Day Services, Macclesfield
Action sought: FOR NOTING
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Presented by:

Strategic Objective(s) that this report covers

SO2 - Ensure meaningful involvement of service users, carers, staff and the wider public
SO7 - Sustain financial viability

Distribution

Version	Name(s)/Group(s)	Date Issued
1	Osc 11 th Oct	September 27 th 2010

Executive director sign-off

Executive director (name and title)	Date signed-off

Purpose of the report

To provide an update to the OSC regarding level 2 consultation plans for the Willows. This paper details the proposal for closure of the Willows and provides the reader with an up to date position on the consultation plan on the proposal to close the willows.

Summary Rationale

Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT (CECPCT) have recently undertaken a prioritisation exercise of all commissioned mental health services within Cheshire And Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP), and, as the Willows offers services which are available via other social support channels, and similar services are not commissioned from CWP in other areas of the Trust, it is proposed by CECPCT that it be decommissioned

Recap on outline of Proposal

Within the CWP Adult Mental Health Services (AMH) – East Clinical Service Line, work is in progress to redesign services to incorporate Access, Acute, Recovery & Rehabilitation pathways with a single point of access to mental health services.

The Willows is a part of the overall review of services commissioned by CECPCT; consideration has been given as to whether this is part of CWP NHS business, whether it benefits a sufficiently large number of patients to justify the overall costs, and whether there is equity of access across the CECPCT footprint.

The Willows offers day services to patients already under the Care Programme Approach (CPA) of a Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). It is a service which serves a small population of up to 115 patients based in and around Macclesfield at an annual cost of £561,000. It offers support to service users in, for example, wellness recovery action planning (WRAP), social skills training, computer literacy and horticulture, and operates a small print workshop, all in collaboration with external agencies such as Macclesfield and Reaseheath Colleges and Connexions. All of the services provided are available via mainstream Local Authority or Educational initiatives and service users could be supported to access these services. This type of day service is not available from CWP in other parts of the Trust footprint.

The proposal is to close the Willows; The Willows (based in Macclesfield) is only accessed by service users from the eastern part of the area i.e. Macclesfield but not Crewe nor Vale Royal, it serves a relatively small population of our 5332 Adult & Older People service users (currently 115 out of 1015 for Adult service users known to the Macclesfield Adult Community Mental Health Teams). These 115 people would be supported by their care co-ordinators to access alternative services as identified in their care plans which could include. Macclesfield College, Cheshire East Council (Social Care), Supported Employment, Reaseheath College, Macclesfield Volunteer Centre, Richmond Fellowship, Making Space and Macclesfield Town Football Club. Mind,

Consultation Process

Service users, carers and staff

The prioritisation exercise was undertaken jointly between senior representatives of CECPCT and senior managers and clinicians from the Adult and Older peoples Clinical Service Unit in CWP. It is important to understand that the prioritisation process has been widely discussed at a number of service user and carer forums including East Cheshire Mental Health Forum. The project board for the prioritisation process led by the PCT had representation from service user and carer groups via Link members.

There is also a PCT led service development group where the prioritisation process has been discussed and members have been briefed throughout the process, at the group it was also decided that service users should be advised about the proposal being take to Trust Boards and Overview and scrutiny committees.

The rationale being that college courses commence in September for the academic year and if CECPCT & CWP awaited the outcome of the proposal it may mean service users missed opportunities to join courses in September 2010 which could be detrimental in the longer term.

Therefore service users were met with individually and advised of the **potential** changes. The staff from the Willows, involving the service users care co-coordinators (within the CMHT) discussed and reviewed the service users care plan in light of potential changes. Staff will continue to discuss how these potential changes may effect them and what would be their concerns and issues.

All CWP staff involved in the provision of the day service within the CECPCT area have been contacted by letter and invited to attend one of five briefing sessions regarding this and other proposed service changes. Staff briefings were delivered by Sheena Cumiskey, CWP Chief Executive, Andy Styring, and CWP Director of Operations on Thursday 05.08.10. Cathy Walsh, General Manager for the Adult and Older peoples Clinical Service was also present at all briefings to deal with queries and speak with staff at their request. A briefing for Governors was also delivered on 05.08.10.

There will also be accessible meetings led by the commissioner at CECPCT will be held to give people the opportunity to raise any concerns. We would explain how people have been and would be supported to access mainstream services and the wider opportunities that this will bring. This will improve the social inclusion of people with mental health problems and contribute to challenging stigma – a key issue raised by many of CWP service users and carers.

Staff consultation will be carried out in line with Trust management of change policy.

We would consult with service users on how we would work to be facilitating access to existing services in mainstream locations- we are currently working with partner organisations to communicate the changes and to discuss the support they may need to ensure service users can access services .

Timescales

Consultation could be completed within 4 weeks, staff consultation has been completed but is an ongoing process of collecting feedback by line management supervision and also manager staff briefing sessions held monthly. See attached Consultation Plan.