

CABINET

20 DECEMBER 2011

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL CARE – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brake, Adult Services

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

Authors: Richard Adkin, Principal Officer Mental Health
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Summary

To set out the views and recommendations from the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered this report on 15 December 2011.

1. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 1.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 15 December 2011.
- 1.2 The Principal Officer Mental Health gave a detailed introduction to the report explaining that Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership (KMPT) had not delivered adequate social care outcomes. For this reason notice had been served on them on 15 June 2011 with the contract due to end on 1 February 2012.
- 1.3 In view of the impending end to the contract he explained there was an urgent need to proceed with a short-term option of bringing the adult mental health social care team back into Council management, until such time as a longer-term solution could be found. He felt there were exciting opportunities for the future to ensure that a whole system approach to adult mental health social care could be adopted. He was also confident that by bringing the staff under the Council's management in the interim the staff could receive much improved supervision and training to ensure excellent support and strengthened safeguarding for the benefit of service users.
- 1.4 The Committee unanimously welcomed the proposals contained in the report and the view was expressed that adult mental health social care had not received the focus and attention it merited for some time.

- 1.5 The Principal Officer Mental Health and the Director of Children and Adults responded to Members' questions. These largely related to the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) and the future for the adult mental health social care team. They stated that the staff concerned had been very much involved in discussions and that KMPT were leading the TUPE negotiations. Responding to a question the Director of Children and Adults explained the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) provision in Medway was a separate arrangement to that of adult mental health social care, however the proposals regarding adult mental health will enable a clearer focus on the needs of service users, who are parents and transition.
- 1.6 The Committee welcomed the suggestion of scrutinising the plans, which will be submitted to Cabinet in June 2012 about longer-term options.
- 1.7. The Committee then recommended to Cabinet that:
- (a) the Council carries out a review of its mental health social care strategy;
 - (b) the Council directly manages the delivery of mental health care management and services;
 - (c) officers be instructed to evaluate and bring proposals to the Cabinet by June 2012 to determine the future delivery of mental health care management and services.

2. Director's Comments

- 2.1. Delivery of effective mental health services is challenging. It is an area of work with some of the most vulnerable people in Medway that presents risks to the person as well as to families and the wider community.
- 2.2. Medway Council has taken the lead on bringing about this change in management, by focussing on social care outcomes for this vulnerable group; by introducing stronger local commissioning of mental health social care and arrangements for better governance of the operation of local services, to drive improvements to safeguarding and well-being.
- 2.3. Safe and effective transition to new arrangements are essential. To this end we are working through a detailed transitional plan overseen by a Steering Group with a series of Task Groups focussing on the major transition areas (Performance & Standards; IT, HR, Estates & Legal; and Operational & Governance arrangements). We have kept staff, users and carers fully informed of these changes and sought their views.
- 2.4. Medway Council does not wish to lose good working relationships and effective partnerships with NHS colleagues across primary and secondary health services. We have included KMPT colleagues and the shadow Mental Health Clinical Commissioning lead for Medway in the Transitional Steering Group.

- 2.5. The Council will transfer mental health social care staff into Council management and introduce leadership, which we believe was absent locally at the time when notice on the contract with KMPT was served. We will seek to improve the connection with Children & Young Peoples Mental Health (CAMHS) service, especially around transition and the response to the needs of children in families where a parent may be affected by mental health issues. We will use the transfer to Council management arrangements from February 2012 to fully understand the issues and the level of service required to deliver safe and effective services in Medway over the longer-term.
- 2.6. The Committee welcomed the report and endorsed its recommendations.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Cabinet is requested to agree the following:
- (a) That the Council carries out a review of its mental health social care strategy;
 - (b) That the Council directly manages the delivery of mental health care management and services; and
 - (c) To instruct officers to evaluate and bring proposals to the Cabinet by June 2012 to determine the future delivery of mental health care management and services.

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