

11 September 2012**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIES - UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce an update from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust on the current position with changes to the Psychological Therapies Services.

Information and Advice

2. On 13 March 2012, Mr Simon Smith, Executive Director for Local Services, Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust attended the Joint Health Committee to describe the planned changes to Psychological Therapies Services and confirmed that the Trust had not considered the changes to be a substantial variation of service and had therefore not been submitted to this committee as part of the consultation process.
3. One of the changes to the service was that a limit would be placed on the number of sessions that a service user could receive. The average total number of sessions was expected to be 30, with a monitoring process put in place so that commissioners could be informed by exception where treatment requires longer than 30 weeks. Service users needing additional support would be assessed again. The Trust did not consider this attention to length of treatment to be a significant service change. The Trust considered that it was reasonable for assessments of service users' progress and outcomes to be fed back to the referrer; it was no longer possible to have open-ended services when resources were finite.
4. Mr Smith confirmed that the business plans had been significantly consulted on with staff, the public and service users. A public event had taken place on 12 March 2012 at Trent Vineyard where the proposals were discussed and commented on by staff, governors and the public.
5. Further to the information provided by Mr Smith, the Joint Health Committee heard from members of staff from the Healthcare Trust. The Committee was not persuaded by the argument from staff representatives that the service changes were a substantial variation or development, but expressed concern in respect of elements of the consultation undertaken and sought additional clarification and reassurances in respect of risk assessments, flexibilities within the service delivery model and service user numbers as follows:

- (a) confirmation of the numbers of service users currently in receipt of psychological therapy for longer than 30 weeks/sessions, the Committee taking the view that this was information required to calculate the level of proposed disinvestment in the service;
 - (b) the Committee's concerns that seeking feedback on a summary of the Specialist Services Business Plan via the internet did not constitute meaningful consultation, especially given the service user profile. The Psychological Therapies objectives entry on the Plan summary referred in general terms only to 'implementing a new service model' and 'developing innovative approaches to psychological therapies' which did not, in itself, explain the proposed changes to the service;
 - (c) evidence that the proposed changes had been risk assessed alongside any independent evaluation or equality impact assessments undertaken on the proposals;
 - (d) explicit written reassurance in respect of the flexibility within the new service delivery model to continue to deliver the service beyond 30 weeks/sessions, where individual service users' clinical assessments indicated that this would be beneficial
6. The response from Professor Mike Cooke, CBE dated 26 March 2012 is attached as an appendix to this report. This letter confirms that of the current 1431 patients referred to this service, 119 (8.3%) have received more than 30 sessions. The letter also acknowledges that consultation specifically about the reduction of length of treatment did not, in fact, take place with service users. The letter gives the assurance that effective involvement will take place should any further changes be requested by the commissioners.
7. Mr Simon Smith will again attend the committee to provide an update. A written briefing from Mr Smith is attached as an appendix.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee:
- (a) consider and comment on the information provided
 - (b) schedule further consideration as necessary

Councillor Mel Shepherd
Chairman of Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826

Background Papers

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All