Community mental health services for West Sussex

Further background – this is not for consultation

Introduction

As stated in the consultation document, Working with you to improve mental health in West Sussex, we want to treat more people in their own homes so they don't have to go to hospital unless it's necessary. But, if they do go, then people shouldn't spend more time in hospital than they have to.

To do this, it's important that the proposals we are consulting on go hand-in-hand with the plans we have in place to strengthen the way we care for people in their own homes.

Our vision

Between now and the full implementation of the proposals we are consulting on, we will develop, with other providers:

- improved out-of-hours 'crisis cafes', as alternatives to A&E
- greater integration of crisis team function into community teams
- improved care pathway for people with personality disorders, and
- growth of mental health crisis teams across West Sussex.

We are developing standards which will make sure that staff can better support patients as they return to GP care or voluntary sector support. And we want to reduce active caseloads for Assessment and Treatment Services clinicians to make sure patients receive more high-quality care.

We are also looking at using buildings and IT better so staff can be more efficient and effective when treating patients.

These developments are being addressed as part of Sussex Partnership's wider community redesign work and are planned to be in place by **end of 2019/beginning of 2020**.

There is also an investment plan in place for urgent care services across West Sussex during the next year. The STP Mental Health prioritisation process for 2019/20 has agreed to fund £1.3m for 2019/20 and £2.4m recurrently for investment in urgent care services across Sussex.

A clinically supported business case is being developed for the STP and its overarching aim will be for urgent care services in each area to meet core standards and resource will be allocated in response to shortfalls in existing service provision.

The STP has also agreed to fund recurrently 13 support workers and peer workers in Sussex and we are recruiting now for these posts.

Sussex Partnership has developed a set of core standards for urgent care services and we are working to meet these standards within our crisis teams. One main priority is to reduce barriers between acute and community teams and, to achieve this, we are launching two Quality Improvement projects which include the roll out of an acute-community trusted assessor model.

There will also be increased direct work with West Sussex County Council Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) service with the aim of reducing the need for detention and admissions.

Across West Sussex all acute services can directly take on the crisis team caseload including street triage, A&E liaison, and ambulance triage and, in North West Sussex, Approved Mental Health Professionals can also access crisis teams directly (this is the trusted assessor model in action).

Sussex Partnership is rolling out the trusted assessor model across all services and strengthen the provision of acute focused support groups across weekends and Bank Holidays.

Its dementia/later life community services are working on delivering a seven-day per week service to maintain people as safely as possible for as long as possible in their home environments. This work should be completed in the next 6-12 months.

There are weekly multi team (acute-community) clinical meetings and SPFT continues to review our estate to consider how to co-locate our community and crisis teams.

We want to improve the way we work with our partners in primary care and the voluntary sector. This will help us support people with serious mental health problems by working more closely with trusted organisations already connected to local people.

This will help us reduce the amount of time it takes people to be discharged from our care, as it will be easier to arrange specialist support for them in the community.