

SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP PPI FORUM

Minutes of the PUBLIC MEETING

Held on 5th December 2005

At Taunton Library

From 2-4 pm

Members Present:

Eillean Tipper (Chair), Cameron Ford (Vice Chair), Pamela Storey, Zena Winter

HAP: Maria Reeve

Trust: Sue Flynn, Andy Coles, John Heath, Graham Jeffs

Members of Public Brenda Prentice, Paul Besley, Frank O Sullivan

1. Welcome and Introductions

The chair welcomed all and introductions were made.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Michael Beaton and Eileen Moshke. Graham Livings was not present

3. Declarations of Interest

Cameron Ford is employed by MIND

4. Minutes of the last Meetings

Public Meeting 10th October 2005 these were agreed

Private Meeting 10th October 2005 these were agreed

5. Matters Arising Public Meeting 10th October P.2,

Pt.7, The Chair emphasised the forum required precise information to ensure that systems were in place to monitor service users who have been resettled as a result of reconfiguration.

The Forum formally requested that the Trust follow this as a matter of course, particularly amidst current changes.

P.5Pt.10 John Heath invited members to visit Park Gate as part of Familiarisation visits.

6. Update from the Trust

a) Andy Coles spoke about acute inpatient reconfiguration.

He made reference to the minutes of the last meeting and the consultation process. He emphasised that the process was focussed on making services more appropriate and not on savings. The Trust were working on achieving accreditation through Bournemouth University.

The primary focus was on bed reduction. The Forum requested the latest report. The reconfiguration process was aimed at being completed by 2008.

A key aspiration of the project was to achieve single sex units with en suite facilities.

Issues around delayed discharge were discussed. A major reason for such delays often reflected housing issues. Other concerns raised included the loss of local facilities and the anxiety and perceptions this caused as seeing services “lost”

Eileen Tipper read out a question from a local councillor from Shepton Mallett, Bob Champion -

With reference to the closure of the Day Hospital at Shepton Mallett “and the 2001 reconfiguration of inpatient services, expansion to Day Care provision was promised so why now the closures?”

The 2nd part of his question referred to transport and long distances in rural areas and asked “what support will the Trust give to users whose service is moved further away, especially as many cannot use public transport”

The Trust responded that the question would be fully answered later.

Paul Besley pointed out that the Bridgwater community felt that too much focus was placed on Taunton. He emphasised concerns that PCT plans were not taking enough consideration of the high proportion of service users with mental health needs.

Graham Jeffs referred to the Board Meeting held on Friday 2nd December where reconfiguration had been a major item. He stated that detailed, genuine consultation had taken place and the emphasis had not been on saving money.

Eileen Tipper asked if the Trust could be more proactive in seeing the possibilities and negotiations around “new build”

Brenda Prentice sought clarification around bed reductions and saving money.

Andy Coles replied that the beds would be replicated.

Discussion continued around bed reduction as a nationwide issue. The ideas around “hospital at home” were discussed. Although overall patients recovery is considered as overall better at home than in a hospital Brenda Prentice questioned the idea that it was better for all to recover at home.

Sue Flynn referred to Supported Housing and looking at supported accommodation and the need for increased flexibility.

Andy Coles explained how accreditation with Bournemouth University would lead to enhanced quality and delivery of services. They were seeking National Accreditation, linking in with appropriate groups such as The Women’s Strategy, which would ultimately assist in increased possibility of further government funding.

Andy confirmed that all this work was linking in and evidenced with the core standards.

b) Sue Flynn

Sue spoke about the impact of changing services was having on service users she referred back to Bob Champions Question.

Sue said that she would take this question back to Diane Rowe for a full answer.

Brenda Prentice spoke of her family’s negative experiences of using local services.

Sue spoke about the assessment procedure carried out for service users at Green Lane residential home in Frome. Each service user had had individual assessments with their carers. Each client was in the process of being relocated in conjuncture with their individual needs.

Zena asked about the continuity of service, how this would be followed up in the longer term future. Sue responded by saying that quality and continuity of care were high priority. Care co-ordinators would ensure this.

Graham Jeffs referred back to Bob Champion’s question and stated that there was a separate consultation for Shepton

Mallet and there is a procedure for councillors to follow.

Sue Ryan went on to talk about day services, she referred to Mendip. Eilleen Tipper gave a brief update on where the forum were with visiting day services. She stated that they intend to complete the visits soon and write up a report which will eventually be made available to the public.

Sue spoke of the Mendip area where there had been a small number of complaints. Concerns focused around the rehabilitation services and there was a need to look at why services are not being used to their full extent.

Eilleen Tipper spoke about how the Forum's work around day services had revealed a significant response from Mendip service users. She felt that there had been a communication breakdown between the Trust and service users.

Sue said that the consultation process had not been effective. "we are tendering for new services in the Yeovil area and are including public and user consultation". Frank Sullivan asked how would people know of the consultation. Sue confirmed that there would be publicised launch. They will use their data base, advertise throughout the area and use G.P's surgeries She agreed that the consultation needed to be high profile.

Brenda Prentice felt that she had not been well informed about The consultation process. Sue Flynn said that she would follow this up.

c) John Heath Taunton Reconfiguration

John spoke about the Taunton Project. He spoke of the need for service users to not only be able to fast track on accessing services but also for exiting them. He spoke of plans for a one large team to oversee service rather than the current smaller 3 teams. He felt this would increase efficiency and relieve some of the pressures experienced by smaller working teams, such as when a member of staff was on leave or sick there would be a larger source pool to pull on.

There followed a discussion where concerns were raised about capacity and the expanse of the large geographic area being serviced by just one team.

Trust members reiterated that this was not about saving money about a more effective service. Andy Cole said that it needed to be seen in a wider context.

Members wanted to know about service continuity. Eileen asked about the management structure of the new single team and the evaluation process.

Frank O Sullivan was aware that “most people will see reconfiguration as a reduction”

Cameron spoke of the sense of ownership people feel about services local to them and how they viewed any change as a loss.

7 Members Reports and Updates

Day Services Project. Data is being collated from visits and feedback will be given when all visits are completed.

The Forum still needs a contact for RETHINK, Burnham, this project is being relocated. Sue Flynn will forward contact details as this project is being relocated.

Work Plans will be on the next private agenda to bring back to the following Public Meeting

Eileen Moschke had expressed an interest in working on the suicide project.

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

Private 11th January

Public 14th Feb