

MINUTES FROM MEETING IN PUBLIC OF THE SOMERSET PPI FORUM

Held on Thursday 18th January 2007 at Wells Town Hall, Market Place, Wells

WELCOME OF THOSE PRESENT AND NOTING OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Present

Eillean Tipper (Chair), Eileen Moschke, Michael Beaton.

In Attendance

Annie Barnard, Rosemary Hasler

Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust

Linda Nash

Diana Rowe

10 members of the public

Apologies

Edward Colgan Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust and also from the following members of the public: Jackie Clarke, Diana Crighton, Zoe Judge, Lisa Lampkin, Di Monaghan, Rachel Pike, Frances Roberts, Elaine Slade, Anne Stibbs, Pauline Streeter, Katrina Walter

Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests

The Chair welcomed all present. The Chair invited everyone to introduce themselves. The Chair said that the order of the agenda would be changed, with the item relating to the Learning Disabilities being taken first, so that parents with children could leave earlier.

PRESENTATION ON THE LEARNING DISABILITIES SERVICE – DIANA ROWE

Diana Rowe has had responsibility for the CAMHS Team since September 2006. The Trust need to come in on financial balance. All directorates within the trust have to come in on budget. The CAMHS directorate has been working closely with the PCT and the local authority. The Trust is a secondary service and does not commission services. It relies on its funding from the PCT and the local authority. With the reconfiguration of the PCTs in Somerset (four Primary Care Trusts into one), the service needed to be reorganised. Diana Rowe reported the clinical lead for CAMHS was happy with the new arrangements. The Trust did consult their commissioning partners.

All referrals will be seen within 9 weeks and the target for 2008 is that all

referrals will be seen by 4 weeks. If children need additional services the work will be allocated. The trust needed to find the most cost effective way of delivering the service.

The service will be reviewed in 12 months and if it needs further changes the Trust will renegotiate with its commissioners.

PUBLIC FORUM

The following questions were asked :

Questions

Q. How will you audit the service?

Linda Nash: The will trust ask the commissioners and consult the service users through a satisfaction survey.

Q. What other monitoring will be undertaken?

Diana Rowe: That is to be decided.

Q. Why was the monitoring not decided before the changes were implemented?

Diana Rowe: I have only worked with this Directorate since September, monitoring will take place.

Q. What makes you think a lower level of psychologist will do for this service – given that the clinical psychology at consultant level has been reduced by 1.2we. How can you ensure that the same service to children and young people with learning disabilities and autism is delivered?

Diana Rowe: Actual staffing levels for the service have increased from 2.3 to 2.7wte (whole time equivalent) Staff are in place to maintain the same level of service.

Q. What could you have done better?

Diana Rowe: Sometimes we don't consult as much as we should do. If this had been a variation in service we would have done it differently.

Susie David: I run a support group for parents of children with aspergers and autism. Is there anywhere in the budget for one to one support and respite?

Diana Rowe: We have an early intervention service managed by Frank Burbach. It offers 3 years support for clients and their families.

Comments

- Changes in the service have come about and they will need to be evaluated. Service users need to be consulted.
- There is something wrong with the system if a parent needs to go to their MP every Saturday.
- Young people need consistency across education, social services and health.
- Parents are concerned that budgets are being cut and more and more young people are being diagnosed with learning disabilities.
- Somerset Partnership has a statutory duty to support families.

- Autism can often be second generation.
 - I would love someone to come and take my children for a few hours a week.
 - Parents don't have the time and knowledge to find out what's available.
 - The changes to the Learning Disabilities Service represent a substantial variation in service and it should be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee for consideration.
- Diana Rowe:** The trust has already spoken to the OSC.
- Diana Rowe:** The Partnership can signpost parents and carers to services available
- What has been lacking has been consultation. Many of the parents feel excluded.
- It is important to distinguish between learning disabilities and mental illness.
- Diana Rowe:** The trust would be happy to come back in six months time to a Forum meeting and give an update on the service. ACTION: Trust's paper on CALDAT to be circulated with the minutes

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 25TH OCTOBER 2006

Agreed as a true record

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

MATTERS FOR REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny for Health and Social Care Committee –

Eileen Tipper gave a report on the meeting held on 13th November 2006. The text of her report is given in full at the end of these minutes.

Somerset Community Network Meeting

Eileen Tipper attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Krysta Felek. Membership of the network will comprise of all/ any 'third sector' organisations working in Somerset providing mental health services. Its purpose is to provide a forum for discussing important issues affecting the mental health sector.

The issues discussed included:

- Sources of funding and the coordination of bids and tenders between voluntary groups.
- Constant erosion of funding by commissioners and the Partnership.
- Development of common training activities.
- Establishing contacts with MPs and councilors
- To establish and maintain peer support networks.

The next meeting of the network is Tuesday 6th March.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Temporary closure of Cranleigh House, Bridgwater. Members agreed

to write to the trust on the temporary closure of Cranleigh House, what has happened to the residents, consultation about its closure and how the impact of the closure is to be monitored. **ACTION: RH**

Work Plan

Liaison and Outreach

Forum members agreed to continue to undergo training, attend meetings, conferences and explore concerns expressed by members of the public.

Carers' Assessment Project

Eileen Moschke presented a report on the work of the Young Carers Project Work. This is a six month pilot between Somerset Partnership and Mendip. The pilot has won an award from Dorset and Somerset SHA for partnership working.

A rucksack is provided for every child who visits family in a psychiatric unit. It gives the child something to play /concentrate on whilst they are there. The bags will be left in the unit. There will be different bags for different age ranges.

The Chair thanked Eileen for this interesting report.

The next meeting of the Carers' Assessments Joint Project Group is Tuesday 23rd January 2007 at the Keynsham Methodist Church between 11.00am -1.00pm. Eileen Tipper and Rosemary Hasler will attend.

Update from HAP

Rosemary and Annie reported that they will be supporting all Forums in the Somerset cluster. Eileen thanked the advisors for their support.

Members Concerns

Michael Beaton to attend the next trust Board meeting

Date of the next meeting in public

Thursday 29th March 2007

2.00pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Bridgwater

Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care

held at the County Hall 13th November 2006

Report by Eileen Tipper

The main item on the agenda was Access to Mental Health Care in Somerset.

The sub-committee received a number of summary and background reports on mental health services for adults between the ages of 18 and 65 in Somerset, together with information on the types of journeys undertaken by service users. The majority of those affected by mental ill health obtain their help and support through GPs and the voluntary

sector. A panel of health professionals from the Somerset PCT, Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust, GPs and the Community Directorate of the County Council were in attendance to provide information and answer questions. In addition a number of representatives from voluntary support groups and service users were in attendance who related their personal experiences of using the services.

The following issues were raised during the course of a lengthy debate:-

- At Primary Care level (GPs) the service did not appear to be consistent across the County. Examples were given of difficulties in obtaining appointments or specialist therapy treatment: there seemed to be an over reliance on the prescription of drugs: a lack of information on what services were available for patients in surgeries: issues concerning the training/ development of GPs: difficulties for patients in crossing the bridge from primary care to secondary/specialist care.
- A minority of patients require the specialist services of the Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust. The Trust gets about 600-800 new referrals a month and have about 6,000 active cases of which 90% are seen within 9 weeks (adults). 97% of patients have a care plan but not all have that document in their hand. Psychological therapies should now be available within existing resources and 30 people a year are being trained to delivery.
- There is a need for more networking/ contact with the voluntary sector - access to information about voluntary groups could be improved by GP surgeries - there was a need for discussions about this at Local Medical Committee level.
- The closure of units in Bridgwater - there was a perception of the need for local services for local people: there was concern about detention in police stations: with regard to recent changes there was a perceived lack of consultation.
- The Partnership Trust services were rated as excellent in the annual health check. The Trust believes that the service user comments do not reflect overall mental health services in Somerset. The Trust acknowledged the frustrations around some aspects of care and that some issues need to be addressed. People wherever possible wanted to be treated in their own home. Extensive consultations had taken place between May and August on the Partnership's recovery plan which had included 2 public meetings in Bridgwater and the development of a specialist service for the county based in Bridgwater.

The following issues were identified as needing to be addressed by the providers of the service:

- Less dependence on the prescription of drugs as initial treatment
- More joint working needed between the various providers/agencies
- Solutions are needed for individual users to get around the walls that are put in front of them, particularly within some GP practices.

At Public Question Time Dr. Harry Proctor asked a question about the Child Adolescent Learning Disability and Autism Team (CALDAT) "given that the Clinical Psychology at Consultant level has been reduced by 1.2wte how can we ensure that the same service to children and young people with learning disabilities and autism can be delivered in terms of
a) specialist clinical work
b) diagnosis of autism and other developmental disorders
c) clinical supervision of CAMHS staff and the junior psychologist
and d) service development "

Diana Rowe, Director of Social care, Somerset Partnership, responded to the question.

"Actual staffing levels for the service had increased from 2.3 to 2.7wte, moving to 2.9wte after their training period. " In answer to items a - d it was confirmed that staff were in place to maintain the same level of service.

In the session reviewing the Committee's Work Programme it was agreed that Children's Mental Health and Older People's Mental Health Services should be added to the Programme in July 2007. It was suggested that the evaluation of CAMHS should be dealt with as a joint project with the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Chief Officers.

Implications of the meeting's outcomes for the PPI Forum:

The Forum will continue to monitor the work of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee in the area of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities and contribute to its projects.

Agenda item: 4
Appendix 1
29/03/07