

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **14 June 2005**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **Shaping the Future of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Substance Misuse Services in Sussex**

Purpose of report: **To inform Cabinet of a public consultation on the future of National Health Service and Local Authority services**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. note the contents of the report; and**
 - 2. agree that a formal response to the consultation be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 15 July 2005**
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1. Financial Appraisal

- 1.1 There are no immediate resource implications arising from the consultation exercise.
- 1.2 Potential changes to organisational arrangements for Health and Local Authority partners will not affect current service and resource commitments. New governance arrangements may, however, have financial implications which will be considered when a formal response is proposed on behalf of Cabinet.

2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 A public consultation is taking place on the future direction of mental health services, services for people with a learning disability, and services for people who misuse alcohol or drugs, across Sussex. Responsibility for providing these services is shared across the National Health Service and Local Authorities. This exercise has potential implications for East Sussex and therefore a presentation by Dr Steven Jones, Project Director, Shaping the Future, has been arranged for the Cabinet meeting on 14 June 2005.
- 2.2 The consultation will close on 19 August 2005. It is planned that a multi-agency Steering Group will then make recommendations on the way forward to the Strategic Health Authority at its meeting on 28 September 2005. Potential changes in organisational structures may affect how services are managed and will require consideration by Cabinet.
- 2.3 The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSC) of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, have taken a view that current options concern the merger of Trusts and not changes to services. In these circumstances it would not be appropriate to form a joint committee to examine the consultation proposals. The meeting of the East Sussex HOSC will however consider the position further at its meeting on 28 June 2005.
- 2.4 Attached is a summary of the Consultation Document. Copies of the full Consultation Document will be available at Cabinet.

3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The options being considered within the consultation have potential implications for those that use services in East Sussex, our staff and the Local Authority more broadly in terms of performance, use of resources and governance. In these circumstances it is recommended that Cabinet be given the opportunity to make a full and considered response.

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