

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **15 July 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 present to the Cabinet a proposed formal response to the consultation document**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposed response to the “Shaping the Future of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Substance Misuse Services in Sussex” consultation document.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 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 need to be considered by Cabinet if organisational change is proposed.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 A public consultation is currently 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.

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 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.

2.4 Attached is the proposed response to the consultation.

2.5 In summary, it is proposed the County Council broadly endorses the principles underpinning the proposed options for the future configuration of services for people with mental health needs, learning disabilities and substance misuse needs. There is a need to acknowledge that there are factors that support structural and organisational change in the way services are commissioned and delivered. Questions remain however as to whether merger into a larger Pan-Sussex provider Trust will bring about the most appropriate and effective way forward and best meet the needs of local people. Therefore a number of conditions are set out in the

proposed response that should form the minimum requirement for the County Council to support the development of a Pan-Sussex provider.

3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The proposed formal response sets out a position where the County Council can best ensure that the needs of our local community continue to be met if a decision is reached to pursue Pan-Sussex arrangements.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents: Shaping the Future of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Substance Misuse Services in Sussex – Consultation Document (attached)