

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date of meeting: **26 March 2015**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **Dementia service redesign**

Purpose: **To consider progress on the development of a business plan for the future provision of NHS dementia assessment beds in East Sussex.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to consider and comment on the progress of the development of a business plan for the future provision of NHS dementia assessment beds in East Sussex.

1. Background

1.1. Within East Sussex there are currently two acute psychiatric assessment wards for older people with dementia. These are St Gabriel's ward within the St Anne's Centre on the Conquest Hospital site in Hastings and the Beechwood Unit at Uckfield Community Hospital. The wards are provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) and they contain 34 beds in total (18 at St Gabriel's and 16 at Beechwood).

1.2. The intended role of the wards is to provide a specialist dementia assessment service for people (either diagnosed or undiagnosed) with acute or challenging needs which mean they are not able to be assessed at home (which is the preferred approach). The intention is for them to be relatively short stay wards, assessing the person's needs and designing a plan for their future care which could be at home with additional support, or in a residential setting.

1.3. In June 2013 HOSC received a report from the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) which outlined a planned review of these beds to determine whether the currently commissioned services remain appropriate for meeting the needs of the population. HOSC determined that proposed options for the future included some which would constitute 'substantial variation or development to the provision of services' which would require formal consultation with the Committee under health scrutiny legislation.

1.4. A HOSC Mental Health Task Group (Councillors Carstairs, Ensor and Standley) was established to review the options and deliver a report and recommendations for consideration by HOSC. The Task Group's report was endorsed by the full HOSC on 21 November 2013.

1.5. A decision on the preferred future service model was taken by CCG Governing Bodies on 11 December 2013, taking into account a range of evidence which included HOSC's report and a wider consultation. They agreed unanimously that Option 4, to close both sites and create a wholly new model of bed-based dementia services, was the preferred option for implementation. High Weald Lewes Havens CCG Governing Body recommended a specific caveat that the model of care was subject to a full business case process, including Governing Body sign off prior to the closure of the existing sites, and that neither of the existing sites was precluded from consideration when identifying the future location for the new model of care.

1.6. The CCGs intended to establish a working group to develop the new model of care, options for delivery and a business case to be reviewed by the three CCGs during 2014. Clinicians and stakeholders were to play an integral part in this process of designing safe and sustainable services which reflect the needs of people who require bed-based dementia assessment, now and in the future.

1.7. In January 2014 the Committee reviewed the CCGs' decision and agreed to consider the business case when it had been produced. The Committee noted that, in the interim, the services would continue on both the current sites, although neither of the ward environments is ideal in terms of the facilitation of good quality dementia care. SPFT had responded to some of the difficulties by increasing some of the staffing ratios.

1.8. In November 2014, HOSC received an update on the progress of the new model of care. The Committee was told that the next major step in the process in 2015 will be to take a draft business case to the CCG Governing Bodies. HOSC requested a progress update for 26 March 2015.

2. Progress update

2.1. An update on the progress of the development of the draft business case for the dementia assessment beds is attached as appendix 1 and includes the revised timescales for finalising the business case. HOSC is recommended to consider and comment on the progress.

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