

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO  
COUNCIL**

**2 MAY 2012**

**REPORT OF CMT**

**CONSULTATION ON FUTURE USE OF LUSTRUM VALE OLDER PEOPLE'S  
MENTAL HEALTH UNIT – RESPONSE OF ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

**SUMMARY**

As a statutory consultee, the Adult Services and Health Select Committee has considered the consultation on the proposed changes to older people's mental health (OPMH) services.

As the proposal has been considered a 'substantial variation' to local services, the Committee's response is required to be endorsed by Council. The response is attached at **Appendix 1**.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is requested to:

1. endorse the Committee's consultation response.

**DETAIL**

1. The consultation on the proposed changes to older people's mental health (OPMH) services and the future use of Lustrum Vale in-patient unit has been running from 8 February to 9 May 2012.
2. The Adult Services and Health Select Committee has been considering the issues as a statutory consultee. The Committee regards the proposals as constituting a substantial variation to local health services (s. 244 NHS Act 2006) and therefore under the Council's Constitution, the Committee's consultation response must be endorsed by Council.
3. In addition to responding to the specific issues raised in the consultation the Committee must also consider:
  - whether, as a statutory body, the Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted;

- whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;
  - whether a proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service.
4. The Committee response is attached at **Appendix 1**. This was finalised by the Committee at its meeting of 23 April.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. There are no direct financial or legal implications for the Council from the proposals at this stage as they refer to services by an NHS provider. In future, older people's mental health needs will need to be considered by the new Health and Wellbeing Board alongside other priorities, together with any preventative public health investment that may be identified as appropriate.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

6. This response to the consultation on OPMH services is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

7. The consultation relates to the following themes: Healthier Communities and Adults, and Older Adults.

## **CONSULTATION**

8. The Committee met on 6 March and held discussions with NHS Tees, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust, and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
9. The Committee has sought views from the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, and the North Tees CCG in order to ensure that they were appropriately involved in the consultation and commissioning process. Stockton LINK were also invited to contribute to the discussions.
10. All Members have been made aware of the consultation proposals and invited to submit comments either in their own right or to the Committee.

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Background Papers: 'Improving Mental Health Services' – Consultation document, NHS Tees and TEWV NHS Foundation Trust

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Community based care takes place across the Borough. The Lustrum Vale Unit itself is in Newtown Ward and takes patients from across the Borough.

Property Implications: None

## **Consultation on future use of Lustrum Vale Older People's Mental Health Unit**

### **Adult Services and Health Select Committee**

#### **Consultation Response**

The consultation poses the following questions:

1. 'What do we need to consider in permanently transferring services previously provided at Lustrum Vale, Stockton-on-Tees to Roseberry Park, Middlesbrough?
2. How can we support patients, carers, families and friends to access the service at Roseberry Park?
3. How can we ensure that we make best use of the Lustrum Vale facility going forward?
4. Do you have any concerns or suggestions about this proposal?

The Select Committee welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the future of older people's mental health services in Stockton Borough. The Committee has held discussions with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), NHS Tees, and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. The Committee has provided the opportunity for the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, and the North Tees CCG, to submit their views in addition to ensuring that all Members of Stockton Council have also had the opportunity to respond.

TEWV provides services in the Borough for older people with both functional illness (eg depression, psychosis) and organic illnesses such as dementia. This takes place in the community and previously at the in-patient unit at Lustrum Vale, Durham Road. Since July 2011 Lustrum Vale has been temporarily closed and in-patients from Stockton have instead been treated at Roseberry Park, Middlesbrough.

The care of patients with dementia within local health settings has been a key interest of the Committee for some time. According to the Alzheimers Society, there are currently c.800,000 people in the UK with dementia and this is projected to increase to over 1 million by 2021. Within Stockton Borough the numbers of people aged over 65 with dementia is projected to double between 2010 and 2030 (POPPI projections). The issue is also firmly now on the national Government agenda.

Access to health services and transport remain key concerns of the Committee when proposals to re-configure services are put forward. Should the proposals be implemented, in future Stockton residents will receive in-patient care outside the Borough at Roseberry Park.

Although fewer people will require in-patient care, clearly there would be a need for those patients that do require it to travel further to receive this treatment. Members

noted that if help was requested in relation to travel, the Trust would provide public transport advice, benefits advice, or it could lead to the use of contract taxis.

The Committee noted that up until the Committee meeting of 6 March, no concerns in relation to the transport arrangements had been raised with the Trust. However, Members are aware that concerns in relation to accessing Roseberry Park were raised at the public and stakeholder engagement event held later on 28 March. The potential use of community transport schemes for patients without other means of transport should therefore be kept under review. The issue of short, inflexible visiting times was also raised and this should be examined by the Trust, especially in light of the increased travel times for people visiting from Stockton.

Overall the Committee is satisfied that the opportunity to improve the quality of care should be taken despite the increased travel distance for some. However, every effort should be made to support those who require extra help with their transport needs.

Better community care, and improved admission and discharge processes, has led to reduced demand for in-patient care, and shorter length of stays when it is needed. The Committee agree with the general principle of providing health services in the home and community wherever possible. If the reduced demand for in-patient stays can be maintained and are in the best interests of patients, the Committee agree that it would not be appropriate to maintain a dedicated OPMH in-patient unit within the Borough.

At Roseberry Park, patients will be split into functional and organic units. Lustrum Vale is a new high quality environment but does not lend itself to flexible usage of beds. Roseberry Park bed ratios have been amended to suit needs (for example, there has been increasing demand for functional beds rather than organic). The National Dementia Strategy (2009) raises concerns in relation to the separation of treatment for organic and functional disorders, as it may disadvantage those with complex needs. This is therefore something that TEWV may wish to keep under review, however, the Committee understands that the proposals will address feedback from patients in relation to mixed condition wards. The Committee notes that if a patient has a dual diagnosis, treatment would be led by the dominant condition but this would not preclude treatment for any additional needs, and there are benefits to specialisation such as the specialised environment that can be created for people with dementia (for example use of colours on the walls and doors to help people get around the unit).

Positive feedback has been received by the Trust on the services at Roseberry Park. This is welcome and the Trust should continue the dialogue with patients, carers and families in order to ensure that the new in-patient services, referrals and admissions procedures continue to meet their needs.

Increased support to community teams as a result of the proposals is welcome and the Committee notes that 9 staff members have been re-deployed into acute or community settings. In addition, increased support for care homes has included the

provision of training which will allow for better recognition of the need for more specialist help.

The Committee is very conscious of the need to ensure that the relatively new and modern building housing Lustrum Vale continues to be used effectively. The Committee note the proposed use of Lustrum Vale for adult rehabilitation services, and also that this will see patients from across Tees area travelling to Stockton for treatment.

From previous discussions, the Committee was aware that the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust had concerns in relation to the numbers of patients with mental health needs using its acute services, and the impact that the closure of Lustrum Vale may have.

Since the temporary closure, North Tees Trust has done work to better understand how many patients in its acute services have dementia and other challenging conditions. The Committee is reassured that over the past year, the concerns have been alleviated and closer joint working through the Dementia Strategy Group has led to better support in acute settings.

Prior to the temporary closure, the North Tees Trust had a specialist dementia nurse at both its main hospital sites. Re-directing funding has allowed for 2 extra liaison nurses and 0.4 FTE speciality doctor to be provided by TEWV in acute settings, and North Tees have themselves funded 1 FTE extra speciality nurse. Commissioners at NHS Tees has provided extra investment for dementia care of £300k across Tees, and this has translated to £100k at North Tees hospital.

The aim is to provide better shared care at the point of contact, and overcome the sense of divide between how mental and physical needs are handled. The provision of acute liaison services is a key aim of the National Dementia Strategy and associated NICE guidelines.

Care for people with additional needs within general hospital settings has been of interest to the Committee and it is particularly pleased to see the improvements in this regard. The Committee understands that commissioners continue to evaluate good practice, including the Darlington Dementia Project and the RAID project in Birmingham, and will apply lessons to the Tees area as appropriate. The Committee regards the consultation process and ongoing engagement work as an opportunity to 'spread the word' about the close working between the acute Trust and mental health Trust.

The Committee note that savings from the closure of the Lustrum Vale unit have been re-invested within TEWV to either provide services in community or acute settings, or as a contribution to the Older People element of the savings that TEWV as a Trust has already identified it needs to make as part of the national NHS QIPP programme. Due to the ongoing financial pressures on the NHS and related social care, it will be important to maintain the levels of community investment in order to prevent as far as possible the need for increased in-patient care in the future, and the need to re-evaluate the capacity, and location of, the Trust's in-patient units.

The Committee is very much aware of the separate but related issue of the demographic pressures on OPMH services, particularly in relation to dementia. The Committee note that although the projections are for the numbers of older people with mental health conditions to increase, it felt that these proposals are proportionate to the current situation in Stockton and neighbouring Boroughs. If the situation changes, then it may be necessary to increase the in-patient provision, and again, preventative and community care are key to managing this situation.

The Committee is satisfied that, as a statutory consultee, it has been properly consulted, and that the patient and public involvement has been appropriate. The Committee also note that key representatives on the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board have been consulted during the process. In addition, the Council's Adult Services have not raised any concerns with the proposals.