

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH MEASURE UPDATE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide an update on the implementation of the Mental Health Measure across adult mental health services within Flintshire.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Current Mental Health law is set out in the Mental Health Act 1983 which was amended in 2007. This legislation provides the framework for the formal assessment of people and compulsory detention in hospital for assessment, treatment and care of certain people with a mental disorder. However, a very small minority of people require compulsory treatment. The great majority of people with mental health problems are provided with community based health and social care services.

2.02 The Welsh Government has now passed secondary legislation; **the Mental Health (Wales) Measure** which addresses the issues of access to community services and the provision of services at the primary care (tier 1) and secondary care (tier 2) levels. The Measure is in addition to the Mental Health Act 1983. It places **additional statutory duties** on Health Boards and Local Authorities in relation to people with mental health needs.

In brief, the Mental Health Measure had four broad intentions:

- To establish and deliver primary care mental health support services. The timescale for this was October 2012.
- To improve the effectiveness and coordination of mental health secondary services. The timescale for this was June 2012.
- To require secondary mental health services to have arrangements in place for people to re-refer themselves. The timescale for this was June 2012.
- To extend the provision of independent Advocacy Services. The timescale for this was April 2012.

2.03 Part1: Local Primary Mental Health Support Services

The aim of this is to strengthen the role that primary care plays in delivering mental health care and treatment through the provision of a specialist mental health service which supports GP's, District nurses,

Health Visitors and other primary care staff in the Health service.

The primary care mental health support service must provide:
advice and information to individuals, carers,
advice, information and guidance to GP's and other professionals in
primary care mental health assessments,
short term interventions and treatments (including individual or group
work), signposting to other services
referral to secondary services (Community Mental Health Teams)
when appropriate.

This has to be a joint service delivered by Health and the Local
Authorities either within or alongside GP practices.

There has to be a joint Scheme agreed between Health and the Local
Authorities which sets out the arrangements for the primary care
mental health support service.

2.04 Part 2: Coordination of and care planning for secondary mental health service users

The Measure places duties on Health and Social Services to act in a coordinated manner to improve the effectiveness of services. *This requires mental health services to agree a care and treatment plan with the full involvement of the service user, which includes the expected outcomes and is regularly reviewed.* The regulations and code of practice will prescribe precisely what the care plan should cover. This will be a holistic tool covering all aspects of living.

2.05 Part 3: Assessments of former users of secondary mental health services

The aim of this part of the Measure is to enable people who have been discharged from secondary mental health services to refer themselves back to secondary services directly without needing to be referred back by their GP or other professional/agency, if they believe that their mental health is deteriorating to such a level as to require these services again.

Health and Social Services are required to put in place arrangements to receive self-referrals of this kind and to undertake timely assessments.

2.06 Part 4: Advocacy

The advocacy arrangements were to be extended so that all inpatients had access to advocacy services.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Part1: Local Primary Mental Health Support Services

Flintshire mental health services already had the First Access Service which focussed on people with mild and moderate mental health problems and work has been undertaken to refocus this service so that it fulfils Part 1 of the MH Measure. This service is now delivered through 12 GP surgeries and negotiations with 7 other practices are underway. Some referrals from the smaller practices will be provided through a few pooled clinics.

Some additional funding was provided by the Welsh Government for this part of the Measure. This has provided 3 additional Nursing staff and has also increased the funding to the voluntary sector by commissioning complementary services. Health are also in the process of transferring another Nurse who specialises in working with older people with mental health problems. This increases the staffing complement from 7 staff to 11 staff (3 Social Workers, 7 Nurses and 1 Therapist).

This resource has enabled the restructuring of services to allow for this provision at a local level within GP practices. As the measure has only recently been implemented we will continue to monitor whether these resources remain sufficient to consistently deliver the service to the standard and within timescale expected

This service saw a significant increase in referrals from GP's from 1st October 2012 when this part of the Measure came into force. From an average of 58 referrals a month to 116 referrals a month.

One of the challenges for this service has been the waiting times and with the introduction of the new staff there has been a reduction in waiting times from an average of 90 days to an average of 30 days. This does not yet meet the target performance of 28 days, though is on track.

New ways of working are also being introduced with more group work and increased signposting to complementary services in the voluntary sector.

The service is now available to adults and older people with mental health problems meeting another target for there to be an ageless service in place.

3.02 Part 2: Coordination of and care planning for secondary mental health service users

Health and Social Services have also restructured the joint secondary community mental health services and created one Community Mental Health Team and centralised the referral process to all parts of tier 1 and tier 2 services through a Single Point of Access system. This has streamlined the referral process. GP's are being encouraged

to complete e-referrals which will further speed the process.

Significant work has been undertaken by the 6 Local Authority Mental Health leads and Health in reviewing operational policies and new documentation to comply with the Measure. The new Care and Treatment Plans are being introduced at the point of review of each person. It is planned for all service users to have a copy of their new Care and Treatment Plan by June 2013. All people are reviewed at least annually and more often as their needs dictate.

3.03 Part 3: Assessments of former users of secondary mental health services

Arrangements have been agreed by Health and Social Services to receive re-referrals from people who have previously been open to the secondary / tier 2 services. These will also go directly to the Single Point of Access meetings from the individual themselves.

3.04 Part 4: Advocacy

Advocacy arrangements have been extended to all people with mental health problems who are inpatients.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to receive this report and note the work undertaken by adult mental health services to implement the Mental Health Measure.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Funding for Part 1 of the MH Measure was made available by WG via Health (£800K across North Wales). This has been deployed on extra Health staff and increased procurement of complementary services from the Voluntary sector.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 One of the essential aims of the Mental Health Measure was to ensure greater equity of access to specialised mental health services and so a principle of ageless service has been adopted.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None for the Council.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None required.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

12.00 APPENDICES.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contact Officer: Vicky Forman
Telephone: 01352 702514
Email: vicky.forman@flintshire.gov.uk