

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 15 OCTOBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES

STRATEGY FOR SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS 2009 AND BEYOND

Executive Summary

This report provides a brief overview of the Wirral Older Peoples Mental Health Strategy 2009 and beyond. The Strategy itself is a joint document across NHS Wirral and Wirral Department of Adult Social Services (attached as Appendix 1). It sets out the strategic direction and investment priorities for Mental Health Services for Older People. Investment in Older People Mental Health Services is included in the Strategic Plan.

The Strategy is a culmination of a number of strands of work undertaken over the past year. This has included:

- *Development of a local 'gold standard' pathway for dementia. This work was previously reported to Professional Executive Committee (PEC) and Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) in September 2008.*
- *Participation in the Care Services Efficiency Delivery Unit (DH) pilot project on Dementia which built on the local work previously undertaken.*
- *Benchmarking of the local strategy against the National Dementia Strategy (attached as Appendix 2).*

This involves a key decision which was first identified in the Forward Plan dated 1st August 2009 for the Strategy paper

1 Key Headlines emerging from the Strategy

1.1 There are a number of key issues arising from the completion of the Strategy:

- Building on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the local needs analysis indicates that there will be significant pressure on services due to the rising older population.
- Additional investment and re-profiling of existing investments and services will be necessary as a minimum in order to meet the needs of the population.
- Investment profiles, based on the Finance Mapping Exercise data (2008), indicate that the total level of investment across the health and social care economy for this client group is £19,846,000. However, it needs to be stated that the vast majority of this investment is in relation to specialist mental health services, and nursing and residential care costs.
- Based on the local work undertaken, the Strategy sets out in summary the current service provision.

- 1.2 Whilst the overall strategy encompasses older people with a range of mental health needs, the inevitable focus is on those with dementia and their carers. The Dementia UK Report (2007) indicates that the numbers of people in Wirral over 65 with dementia is 4,924. This figure is estimated to increase by 28% by 2020. There is a real imperative, therefore, to develop a range of services for this particular group.
- 1.3 Based on the work previously described, a number of key recommendations have emerged in relation to meeting the needs within the context of an overall pathway of care:
- Development of services which focus on prevention.
 - Increase the level of public and professional awareness of dementia to enable earlier identification of people who need support.
 - Ensuring people are pro-actively monitored and support in a continuous way.
 - Minimising unnecessary hospital admissions via provision of crisis and alternative support in the community.
 - Supporting carers to care for longer.
 - Development of Memory Services.
 - Ensuring dignity, choice and control at the end of life.
- 1.4 The Strategy has been fully supported and approved by the Local Implementation Team, the Older Peoples Joint Commissioning Group, the Professional Executive Committee, NHS Wirral and Department of Adult Social Services Strategic Leadership Team.

2 Next Steps

- 2.1 A proposed investment plan identifying priority areas for investment has been developed and has been reported to the Older People's Joint Commissioning Group (Appendix 3).
- 2.2 Following the Completion of Initial Equality Impact Assessment undertaken jointly between the Local Authority and NHS Wirral, a full consultation process will follow.
- 2.3 The next identified steps are:
- Ongoing development of investment plan via the establishment of Task and Finish Co-ordinating Group. This group reports to the Older Peoples Joint Commissioning Group on a regular basis.
 - The identified leads for the areas outlined in the investment plan will seek to develop detailed business cases for the proposed levels of investments with Service Specifications for subsequent consideration and approval.
 - Full consultation on the service proposals, via a partnership approach, and with targeted engagement for specific groups within the community.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 NHS Wirral has identified £500k, rising to £750k in 2010/11 to support service developments in this area.

4 Staffing Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 5.1 People with mental health needs and their carers are amongst the most vulnerable members of the community, and it is therefore important that this group have equitable access to services.

6 Planning Implications

- 6.1 None arising from this report

7 Social Inclusion Implications

- 7.1 The strategy sets out the intentions to support people who use services and their carers in their own homes and the community for as long as possible.

8 Local Member Support Implications

- 8.1 People with mental health problems live in all wards in the Borough

9 Background Papers

Appendix 1: Older Peoples Mental Health Strategy

Appendix 2: Benchmarking of Local Strategy against the National Dementia Strategy

Appendix 3: Investment Plan

10 Recommendations

That: -

- (1) Cabinet approves the Strategy.

JOHN WEBB
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