

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – OLDER PEOPLE**

### **Summary**

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to consider an update on provision of Older People's Mental Health Services, within Worcestershire, including Dementia.

2. This follows on from the HOSC's earlier overview of Mental Health Services in Worcestershire, and the Mental Health Liaison Service.

3. Representatives from the service provider, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust have been invited to the meeting. Representatives have also been invited from the Integrated Commissioning Unit and other associated organisations.

### **Background**

4. HOSC members are aware that there have been significant changes to the provision of mental health care and support over the last two decades, as a result of national policy, a greater understanding around best practice and an overall shift in society's views around mental illness.

5. Within Worcestershire, health partners have committed to recent Government initiatives aimed at improving patient and care outcomes through partnership working, including the '*Dementia Action Alliance – Carers Call to Action*', which urges improvements in support for the estimated half a million people who care for someone with dementia.

### **Older Adult Mental Services**

6. In relation to older adult mental health, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (WHCT) provide community and inpatient services to adults with mental health needs, including dementia, across Worcestershire.

7. Older Adult Mental Health Services provided by the Trust include the Early Intervention in Dementia Service, which by intervening early in the illness before cognitive deficits affect mental capacity, encourages patient choice and autonomy, helping the individual and their family adapt to the illness and start making plans for the future.

8. WHCT work closely with voluntary and community sector organisations throughout the County as they play an important role in local Dementia pathway delivery and are better placed to help people living with Dementia within their own communities.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

9. The aim of the meeting is to extend HOSC's understanding of mental health services provided in the County, the policy changes (past and future), the importance of interagency working across the system and how progress will be made to parity of esteem between physical and

mental health.

10. During the discussion the HOSC may wish to consider the following:

- future planning for Older Adult Mental Health Services, based on Worcestershire's demography which includes higher than average numbers of older adults, and the continuing trend of more people living for longer with health conditions such as Dementia;
- how do Older Adult Mental Health and Dementia Services in Worcestershire compare nationally and what does WHCT perceive as the main issues and barriers towards achieving parity of esteem for mental and physical health?
- the implications of the Care Act 2014
- issues raised during the HOSC's earlier discussions of other mental health services, some of which may also be relevant to services for older people – funding, waiting times for early intervention, access to psychological therapies and group work, crisis support, discharge planning and interface with social care, housing and supporting people, re-accessing services once discharged, and capacity.

11. Following the discussion, HOSC members are asked to consider whether any further information is required and identify any specific elements for potential future scrutiny.

## Supporting Papers

Presentation slides will be available at the meeting.

## Contact Points

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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### Specific Contact Points for this Report

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## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 8 October 2013, 26 February, 5 November and 9 December 2014  
[Minutes and Agendas are available here](#)
- HM Government's national policy 'No health without Mental Health', which is available on their website:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/213761/dh\\_124058.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213761/dh_124058.pdf)
- Department of Health's report 'Achieving Better Access to Mental Health Services by 2020', which is available

on their website:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/361648/mental-health-access.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/361648/mental-health-access.pdf)

- Worcestershire's Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Strategy, which was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2014:  
<http://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/web/home/DS/Documents/Appendix/Health%20and%20Well-being%20Board/Agendas%20and%20Reports%202014/Item%205.pdf>