

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR HEALTH ISSUES	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – JOINT COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To set up a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to respond to the forthcoming consultation on proposals for the redesign of mental health services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission agrees to:

1. The setting up of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Cambridgeshire County Council for the purpose of scrutinising the proposals for the redesign of mental health services.
2. Nominate up to five members plus substitutes to a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 NHS Cambridgeshire, NHS Peterborough and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust will be consulting on a range of proposed changes to how specialist services are provided locally to people with mental health needs. Proposals include a redesign of inpatient and community based mental health services for adults of working age and older people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These proposals have been developed over the past few months in discussion with GPs.

NHS Cambridgeshire (NHSC) and NHS Peterborough (NHSP) are responsible for commissioning these services for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) is the main provider of NHS mental health services across the county.

All three organisations face significant challenges to deliver efficiency savings during the next three years due to the Government's requirement for Primary Care Trusts to make 4% a year savings. The current annual funding for the CPFT is around £50m for Cambridgeshire, and £18m for Peterborough.

- 3.2 The proposals are currently being worked on with GPs, including Huntingdonshire GPs in relation to wards at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, and with groups such as Local Involvement Networks. The Cambridgeshire User Network is also being briefed.
- 3.3 The Cambridgeshire Adults Wellbeing and Health (AWH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee's mental health working group, which now includes members from the Peterborough Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues, has been meeting with CPFT, NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough over the summer to discuss and comment on the draft proposals.

The draft proposals are subject to a clinical review by the National Clinical Advisory Team, and a 'gateway' review which will consider the proposed consultation process. Working group members are feeding their views into both reviews.

Formal consultation is expected to commence at the beginning of October.

- 3.4 The detailed terms of reference and work programme for the Committee would be agreed by its members. It is likely to have three or four formal meetings during the consultation period; the location and timing of these meetings will be determined once the consultation dates are known. The Committee would meet in public and its papers would be publicly available.
- 3.5 Cambridgeshire County Council have agreed to host the joint committee and the meetings will be held either at Peterborough or Cambridge.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Current legislation, in the form of a Direction issued by the Secretary of State for Health in July 2003, requires that where a local NHS body consults more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on a proposal it has under consideration for a substantial development of the health service or a substantial variation in the provision of such a service, the local authorities of these OSCs shall appoint a joint OSC for the purpose of the consultation. Only that joint OSC may:

- Make comments on the proposal consulted on to the local NHS body
- Require the local NHS body to provide information about the proposal
- Require an officer of the local NHS body to attend to answer questions in relation to the proposal.

It is therefore proposed that the Commission set up a time limited joint OSC with Cambridgeshire County Council, to consider and respond to the forthcoming proposals for mental health services. A similar proposal is being considered by the Cambridgeshire AWH Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 15 September.

The members of the Joint OSC will agree its specific terms of reference, and how it conducts its business, such as frequency, time and location of meetings, and how it obtains evidence.

The Committee would be supported by the Cambridgeshire Scrutiny and Improvement Officer.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 None