

**Meeting of the Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services**

**Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet members of the progress of the Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy and to seek its approval. A full copy of the Strategy is available in the Members' room and electronically on the Council's committee management information system (CMIS).

**Background**

2. The Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy replaces the existing Mental health Strategy (2005 – 2009). The original strategy reflected the national requirements specified in the National Service Framework for Mental Health, which was superseded in 2009 by a new national strategy, 'New Horizons'
3. The Strategy has been developed through the Dudley Mental Health Partnership Board which includes representation from people who have mental health support needs, carers and providers of services
4. The Strategy has been informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Social Care Commissioning Framework. The Strategy also takes account of the key policy drivers influencing the development of health & Social Care
  - *National Strategy for Mental health – 'New Horizons'*
  - *Transforming Social Care*
  - *Payment by Results*

**Scope**

5. The Strategy covers the following groups:
  - Adults aged 16 – 64 (except for those accessing Early Interventions & Eating Disorder Services when the lower age limit is 14)
  - People in transition – both younger people with a mental health diagnosis and people aged 65+
  - Adults with a diagnosed mental health condition and a dual diagnosis of drug or alcohol misuse
6. The Strategy is based on a whole population approach to mental health, which emphasises prevention and the maintenance of good mental health. This approach requires taking a more integrated approach with mainstream health services and reflects the strategic objective of achieving healthier communities

## **Consultation**

7. There has been wide consultation on the draft Strategy and the final closing date for consultation is February 14<sup>th</sup>. It is intended that the presentation of the document be revised before its presentation to the PCT Board in March although the content of the objectives and action plan is unlikely to change.
8. The draft strategy has been circulated for comment to a wide range of stakeholders including service user and carers, providers and staff.

## **Impact**

9. The Strategy emphasises the view that mental well being is as important as physical health and that 'the greatest degree of effective recovery is gained from early identification and treatment'. To achieve this services will be commissioned that focus on early intervention, prevention of deterioration and reducing admissions to hospital and care homes. This not only contributes to the good health objectives but also the economic regeneration as people will be supported to sustain existing employment or find new opportunities.
10. In addition to early intervention there will be an emphasis on access to a range of services and therapies to support people to remain in their communities but also quality in patient treatment facilities to promote sustainable recovery

## **Finance**

11. There are no additional financial implications for the Council in respect of this report. It is intended that actions will be met from within existing resources and from reconfiguring existing services to meet changing demand.

## **Law**

12. The Strategy takes account of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Mental Health Act 1983. The Council is discharging its legal requirements through the Section 75 agreement currently being finalised with the Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust.

## **Equality Impact**

13. Stakeholder events held during the period of consultation aimed to ensure that the mental Health Strategy is relevant to the communities of Dudley.
14. The Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy will be Equality Impact assessed before it is implemented

## **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that:-
  - The progress that has been made in developing a Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy be noted.

- The Cabinet approve the Strategy subject to the approval of the Primary Care Trust Board



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**Director of Adult Community & Housing Services**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Dudley Adult Mental Health Joint Commissioning Strategy (Draft)