

Mental Health Social Care Scrutiny Update

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Division and Local Member: N/A

1. Summary

1.1. The Adult Social Care (ASC) services that support people with Mental Health needs is continuing to develop in line with the Council Promoting Independence strategy. The services continues to focus on the transformation to ensure that services are well aligned with other ASC services and that opportunities are maximised to promote the independence and mental well-being of the people of Somerset.

1.2. All ASC services have a vision which is promoting independence at every opportunity. Within Mental Health, this visions is often translated into the Recovery Model. The recovery model is a person-centered approach to mental health care. At its core is two premises, one,

It is possible to recover from a mental health condition
The most effective recovery is person centred.

1.3. In Somerset the strengths-based approach focuses on the strengths the individual, their family, social networks and communities. Also, central to our approach, is what matters to individuals and their families. We continue to empower people to take control of their lives and their care and support, work with people and their communities to identify and provide sustainable local solutions to help them stay as well as possible and as resilient and as independent as possible, for as long as possible.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

2.1. There has been a clear focus of Mental Health teams on Promoting Independence and Recovery. However, transformational change is necessary to ensure that our Mental Health services can identify and work with people and families even earlier. More flexible and varied support, aims to prevent rather than respond. Mental Health services are now in a position where transformation can be escalated to develop the provision of Mental Health social care so that we can better meet needs of our current population, and better and respond to the changing needs and demographic with that great focus on prevention as well as providing services to those who need them, for example people with dementia.

3. Implications

- 3.1.** A significant programme of change is in progress to transform mental health social care in Somerset. Key highlights of the transformation programme include the following developments.
- 3.2.** A vibrant and flexible social care market is vital in order to deliver the vision for adults with mental health needs and their families. There are at least 100 providers of mental health services in Somerset, and the ASC mental health team are holding a Promoting independence Workshop in November with partners and providers, to consider
- Community development
 - Market development
 - Practice development
- 3.3.** The workshop will enable ASC to work with the current service providers to discuss the Council vision to promote the independence of individuals with services that maximise this potential and enable individuals to live fulfilling lives supported by community services.
- 3.4.** Case studies will be used to support the market to appreciate current demand on ASC and to consider innovative practice that enables more people to be supported in and contribute to their communities and receive the care and support that they need as close to home as possible.
- 3.5.** The council commissioning services and mental health teams will be working with together to expand the Community Connect to support the more complex needs of people with mental ill health. Mental health social workers will be working with community partners to ensure the provision of support is rooted in local communities.
- 3.6.** Our hospital social workers currently provide social care in the nine in-patient wards across Somerset. The service will be developed to enable it to in reach people at the point of admission rather than reacting when the discharge is being planned. This will enable the team to work with individuals to support earlier discharge, reducing the disabling impact of detention.
- 3.7.** The Approved Mental Health Professional (AMPH) hub is being developed to engage with the community connect model. This may mean redirecting resources and reviewing working arrangements to enable the delivery of the least restrictive interventions to support people in mental health crisis.
- 3.8.** ASC mental health teams will be working to align the 'front door' to the service. This will involve mirroring the Somerset Direct referral model for MHSW and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Liberty Protection Safeguards, which will be subject to a future report to this committee.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1.** Progress against the transformation programme will be monitored through the Adults Transformation Board.
- 4.2.** Scrutiny are to consider and comment on the Mental health transformation plan.