

Update on the Fit for my Future review of acute mental health inpatient beds for people of working age

Lead Officer: Maria Heard, Programme Director, Fit for my Future
Andrew Keefe, Deputy Director of Commissioning - Mental Health, Autism, & Learning Disabilities

Dr Peter Bagshaw, Clinical Lead for Mental Health - Fit for my Future

Author: Caroline Greaves, Programme Manager, Fit for my Future

Contact Details: 07584 530727 (Caroline Greaves)

Summary:	<p>This report is an update on the Fit for my Future programme in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact on the programme from Covid-19 the consultation on the future location of acute mental health inpatient beds for people of working age.
Recommendations:	<p>That the Health and Wellbeing Board is made aware of the progress with the mental health consultation and the findings of the independent report compiled by Participate.</p>
Reasons for recommendations:	<p>To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with opportunity to receive and understand the independently analysed public feedback provided by Participate in relation to the mental health consultation.</p>
Links to The Improving Lives Strategy	<p>Fit for my Future, Somerset's Health and Care Strategy, supports the vision of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy by encompassing its underlying principles and priorities to improve the lives of people Somerset and, in particular, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase healthy life expectancy, taking account of quality as well as length of life, and Reduce inequality in life, and healthy life, expectancy between communities through greater improvements in more disadvantaged communities. <p>We recognise the disparity in service access and the need to establish parity of esteem between mental and physical health services. The programmes set out in the attached presentation take us one step further to achieving this, although we recognise there is still more to do.</p>
Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership	<p>No financial, legal and HR implications to note at this stage. Please note we will continue to bid for additional bespoke</p>

Implications:	national NHS funding where we can to enhance our total spend on mental health services.
Equalities Implications:	<p>People with mental health conditions often have poor access to support from physical health services. We recognise the disparity; enhanced support in the community and at an earlier stage for people with mental health illness will take us a step further to addressing this.</p> <p>An Equality and Quality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is being refreshed to take account of public feedback.</p>
Risk Assessment:	<p>All risks identified are managed through the Fit for my Future programme.</p> <p>The key risk to the enhanced programme of support is in recruiting staff, however recruiting and retaining staff to work in community mental health positions is less difficult than recruitment to hospital-based positions.</p>

1 Background

1.1. The formal consultation on the future location of acute inpatient mental health services for adults of working age and the engagement on our early thinking about future community health and care services for the people of Somerset concluded on Sunday 12 April.

1.2. Impact of Covid-19 on the Fit for my Future Programme

The Fit for my Future programme has been impacted by the national public health restrictions put in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as staff from across the health and care system prioritising our system's response to the pandemic. As a result, the programme was paused at the end of March, with the exception of completing the consultation, engagement and considering the impact of the public feedback on our consultation proposals.

Across the consultation and engagement, 31 face-to face-events which had been planned to take place in the last few weeks had to be cancelled. Through switching to a digital approach, we were able to continue to enable people to be able to ask questions and provide feedback to us. This was supported via paid advertising in local newspapers in the Wells and Mendip areas, paid promotion on Facebook to the Mendip area in particular, posting to community Facebook groups, sending posters and consultation materials to libraries, pharmacies, GP surgeries and other venues that the public were still able to access. We sent emails to identified stakeholders and organisations to advise that the consultation would continue without face to face meetings/events and to highlight how people could continue to have their say. We held a phone in on the consultation with BBC Radio Somerset and sent out a press release. People were able to provide feedback through a dedicated phone line, through and online

and paper survey, through letters and emails and by commenting on our social media posts.

A decision was made on 27 March 2020 by Programme Board to formally pause the FFMF programme, other than the completion of the consultation on the future location of acute inpatient mental health services for adults of working age, the engagement on our early thinking about future community health and care services for the people of Somerset by digital methods, and the external review of the feedback by Participate as outlined in this report.

The role of Participate Ltd within the consultation was to receive all feedback, analyse it and conduct an independent analysis of the consultation feedback which was completed on 25 May 2020.

2. Mental Health Consultation

- 2.1.** The formal consultation on the future location of acute inpatient mental health services for adults of working age concluded as planned on Sunday 12 April through switching to digital/telephone approach in the latter few weeks due to public health advice in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Through the twelve weeks of consultation, we reached the following:

- 538 surveys received
- 20 emails, 2 calls, 6 letters and 1 petition received
- 63 events organised or attended to promote and discuss the consultation
- 732 people attended these events
- 3,538 people reached through a Facebook Live event

The majority of the public-facing activities had been completed prior to the Covid-19 public health restrictions, with the exception of attendance at some talking cafés, library sessions, SomPar/TST Council of Governors meeting, Mendip Parish Council forum, Taunton & Bridgwater Deaf Club.

Our community asset-based approach which aimed to reach individuals and communities that we could not reach ourselves was hardest hit by Covid-19, as this did not start until March. We undertook 1 focus group and 4 interviews (3 focus groups and 30 interviews were planned).

3. Next steps

- 3.1.** To follow up on the Participate report findings, a number of actions are being undertaken:
- Consideration given to the feedback from the consultation and the impact this has on the proposal we took to the public during the consultation.
 - Using a digital platform (due to Covid-19 restrictions) to deliver Participate's independent consultation review report to the public.

- A travel sub group met early in August to explore and identify options to mitigate the travel issues raised through the consultation.

We are expecting to bring a Decision Making Business Case (DMBC) to the CCG Governing Body in September, although acknowledging we may experience some further impact of Covid-19.

- 3.2.** The changes proposed will not involve a reduction of acute mental health inpatient beds but rather a potential reconfiguration of the location of the beds.

4. Background papers

- 4.1.** The independent report produced by Participate Limited giving an independent analysis of the consultation feedback.

6. Report Sign-Off

	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Maria Heard	13/08/20
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)		Click or tap to enter a date.
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)		Click or tap to enter a date.