

Title of report: Most Appropriate Agency update

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting date: Monday 11 March 2024

**Report by: Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and
Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust**

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

For the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to receive an update on the work between West Mercia Police and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust in relation to the Most Appropriate Agency policy.

Current position

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust currently has two inter agency monitoring groups (IAMG) – one for Herefordshire and one for Worcestershire working across mental health partners. There is strong attendance from acute trusts, Approved Mental Health Practitioner leads, Police Inspectors for the areas, West Midlands Ambulance Services and Learning and Development services. MIND also attend these meetings and have very positive relationships with partners. In terms of Most Appropriate Agency issues, there is a process in place to ensure that issues are picked up with the inspectors, and also mentioned for any wider learning with the IAMGs.

The police are having an independent peer review of their MAA policy on 7 and 8 March 2024. The review is being undertaken by the College of Policing and is being led by ACC Gilmer who is the NPCC Lead for Right Care, Right Person (national terminology for the Most Appropriate Agency). Richard Keble, Programme Director for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities for the Integrated Care Board will contribute to the review from a health perspective. It is understood that the police are conducting a review of the first 6 months of the MAA policy and is due for completion by next month. The report once complete will be shared with partners

Form the perspective of statutory mental health NHS services there are established relationships and a governance mechanism to raise any issues and that these are kept under review.

Recommendation

That:

- a) **The Health and Wellbeing Board notes this update.**

Alternative options

Key considerations

1. The report is for the board to consider and note the update including the upcoming MAA review being undertaken by West Mercia Police.

Community impact

2. To be considered as part of the MAA review.

Environmental Impact

3. There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report.

Equality duty

4. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
5. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our Health providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.

Resource implications

6. There are no known resource implications associated with this report.

Legal implications

7. There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendation in this report.

Risk management

8. There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendation in this report.

Consultees

None

Background papers

None identified.