

MEETING:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	31ST MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	MENTAL HEALTH PROCUREMENT PROJECT
Report By	PROJECT MANAGER

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To provide an update on the Mental Health Procurement Project being undertaken by NHS Herefordshire and Herefordshire Council.

Recommendation

THAT the report be noted subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make.

Introduction and Background

1. The current Herefordshire Mental Health Services are provided by Provider Arm of NHS Herefordshire supported by Herefordshire County Council. Whilst the services provided are satisfactory, the advantages of economies of scale offered by large specialist mental health providers are unavailable. Additionally there are issues of capacity when required to implement national initiatives and governance.

NHS Herefordshire has taken the view that these services would be best provided by a specialist mental health provider who would provide services and take on the staff under a TUPE transfer.

NHS Herefordshire requires its mental health services to reflect its rural environment and must remain as a local service. A franchise or federation model whereby Herefordshire Mental Health is an operating division of a specialist mental health provider is seen as particularly attractive.

In line with the national policy 'Transforming Community Services' ethos, NHS Herefordshire is keen to develop a contractual relationship with their providers, consider what would best meet the future needs of patients and local communities, and develop change mechanisms to support the transformation of services to patients.

Key Objectives

2. The key objectives of the project are:
 - To provide patients with greater access to Mental Health Services;
 - To improve the quality of Mental Health care available to patients;
 - To deliver affordable and Value for Money (VfM) Mental Health services; and
 - To deliver on national initiatives and clinical governance.

Key Issues

3. Herefordshire PCT requires the Provider to address the following key issues throughout the life of the Contract:
 - Access – The services procured must be provided in locations and facilities that meet local patient access preferences.
 - Capacity – The aim of the Procurement is to provide sufficient Mental Health Service capacity and to meet national targets and local commissioning KPIs
 - Quality – Patient-centred services delivered in a safe and effective manner and delivered through a learning environment that includes the training of doctors and other healthcare professionals.
 - Value for Money and Affordable – The Herefordshire Mental Health Service procured through the Procurement must be affordable and provide VfM.
 - Integration – Providers will be expected to integrate with, and positively contribute to, the wider local healthcare community and current integration agenda inc. the acute medical sector, local health and social care community.
 - Technology – The provider is expected to have the ability to integrate technology/systems to support continued partnership working with Hereford Hospitals Trust, Herefordshire Local Authority, Herefordshire PCT and Herefordshire GPs.
 - Governance – the provider is expected to manage and maintain clinical and non clinical governance procedures and systems, adhering to national guidance and supporting local mechanisms.

Mental Health Procurement Project – Board Members

Sue Doheny	Director of Quality and Clinical Leadership
Wendy Fabbro	Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning
Richard Carroll	Managing Directory of Provider Services
John O’Grady	Medical Director – Provider Services
Diane Jones	PCT Non Executive Director
Nigel Seller	PCT Non Executive Director

Progress and Timeline

5. The Mental Health Procurement Project has completed the initial stages of the procurement process resulting in four clear bidders moving into the next phase.

Documentation is being developed and gathered which will support the bidders in their development of a proposal to take on the service. The documentation will be released to the bidders late in January 2010, with an initial draft proposal scheduled for late February 2010.

These initial proposals will be assessed by an Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team is made up from Herefordshire Commissioners, Providers and Clinical staff from within the service. This team will meet with the bidders to consider their findings and make recommendations.

The bidders will be given equal opportunity to visit the service and meet staff to discuss current practice and procedures. They will also be given the opportunity to discuss corporate issues with HR, IT, Finance etc. This process will run throughout March into April 2010 with a second draft proposal to be assessed by the Evaluation Team.

The final proposal submission date for this Procurement Project is planned for the beginning of May with recommendations going to the PCT Board on 27th May.

Background Papers

None Identified