

Visit to older people's day hospital and inpatient facilities**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide feedback from a visit to see the day hospital services and inpatient environment for older people in Sunderland provided by Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust.

2. Background

- 2.1 Mental Health services for older people in Sunderland and South Tyneside are provided by Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust. Plans were developed to improve the day hospital services and inpatient environment for older people, particularly those with dementia, and consolidate some services to improve quality for those people using them. This is in line with the plans for the PrIDE development (Providing improved mental health and learning disabilities environments in Sunderland and South Tyneside) which have been subject to full public consultation.

3. Visit to facilities

- 3.1 Following reports to the Committee consulting members on environmental improvements to Wearmouth View, Monkwearmouth Hospital, and the PrIDE project members were invited to visit Grange Day clinic and Wearmouth View hospital on 23rd June 2011.
- 3.2 Members attending the visit were Councillors Walker, Shattock, Francis and Hall.
- 3.3 The services provided include both inpatient and community services to support people with functional mental health conditions like depression and anxiety and organic conditions like dementia.
- 3.4 The services provided from the Grange Day clinic aim to assess, treat and stabilise a persons mental health conditions, so that they can continue to live well at home. People may go to the day hospital once or twice a week for a short period of time so that they can have intensive assessment and treatment from clinical staff without needing to be admitted to hospital or as part of support to go home from hospital. This is different from 'day services' which might support someone's social care needs or provide respite care.
- 3.5 Services for people with illnesses such as depressions and anxiety include:
- Assessment and diagnosis
 - Specialist psychological therapies
 - Health promotion including healthy living and exercise
 - Anxiety management

- Medication reviews

3.6 Members also viewed the newly established one central day hospital site at Wearmouth View. This development is one of the first steps towards improving mental health services across the city and helps move toward providing a centre for dementia, which will be located at Monkwearmouth Hospital.

3.7 Services at the hospital include more complex assessments and treatments. Specific services for people with suspect/confirmed dementia include:

- Memory assessment and diagnosis
- Cognitive stimulation therapy
- Memory rehabilitation
- Health promotion including healthy living and exercise
- Specialist psychological therapies
- Medication reviews

3.9 Services for carers include:

- Information and signposting
- Education and support groups
- Individual assessment and treatment where appropriately identified

3.10 The newly consolidated service has only been operational since June and members were impressed that the service had established itself so quickly. It was also noted that:

- service users transport concerns are being addressed with the availability of 4 ambulance service crews to transport service users to and from the day centre.
- service users can now be referred to the unit directly from their GP.
- There have been significant improvements in data sharing between services.
- The views of service users are taken on board with feedback constantly being sought so that improvements can be made to the day service.

3.11 It was acknowledged that there are often a number of concerns during any period of change and staff are working hard to ensure that these concerns are addressed and that the needs of services users are met.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the feedback following the visit.

Background Papers

Scrutiny Committee report 'Environmental improvements to Wearmouth View, Monkwearmouth Hospital' 13 October 2010

Scrutiny Committee report 'Pride Project Update' 8 December 2010

Scrutiny Committee Changes to Older People's Inpatient Services in Sunderland and South Tyneside in preparation for the PRIDE Development report March 2011