

GOOD HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE 27TH JANUARY 2005.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

OVERVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN DUDLEY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To brief Good Health Select Committee on recent developments in Mental Health Services in Dudley
- 1.2 To advise Good Health Select Committee on the outcome of the Autumn Assessment of Mental Health Services by the Strategic Health Authority

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1999 the Government published the National Service Framework for Mental Health, which set out seven key standards for improving services.
- 2.2 The Government's strategy for Mental Health based on the NSF standards set out the following priority areas:
 - Strengthening comprehensive care for people with severe mental illness e.g. acute beds; assertive outreach teams; crisis resolution.
 - Preventing suicide
 - Providing 24 hour access to services
 - Delivering better primary mental health care
 - Supporting carers of people with severe mental illness
 - Developing training and recruiting staff
 - Improving partnership working
 - Improving the use of IT
 - Developing mental health promotion
- 2.3 The Government's strategy has been translated into the development of new posts and new teams. The assessment of local Mental Health services by the Strategic Health Authority is based in part on whether these teams have been set up within the deadline and how effective they are in meeting targets for patient numbers.

- 2.4 In Dudley joint teams of Social Workers and psychiatric nurses were established as long ago as 1990. These Community Mental Health Teams (previously known as Local Mental Health Units) have developed into effective multi-disciplinary teams. However, senior management structures in health and Social Services were not joined up. As a result, it was decided by the Council and the PCTs in March 2004 to move towards a fully integrated Mental Health service in Dudley by 1st April 2005.
- 2.5 Since then, a new joint Head of Service has been appointed and appointments to the senior management team were made in December. The integrated Service, as planned, will be in place by 1st April 2005.
- 2.6 New teams are being added to the Service in Dudley in line with Government Guidance:
- An Assertive Outreach team to work with people with severe mental illness who are frequent users of services.
 - A crisis resolution/home treatment team to offer alternatives to hospital admission and thus reduce reliance on acute beds.
 - An Early Intervention team to provide treatment and support for young people with psychosis and their families.
- 2.7 The Community Mental Health Teams will continue to be the core around which the service is delivered, but a process of service re-design is taking place to ensure that there are effective links between the CMHTs and the new specialist teams.
- 2.8 By April 2005, Dudley will also have 5 Graduate Mental Health Workers and 5 Gateway Workers in post.
- 2.9 The Government has also introduced a new Mental Health Bill. The Bill includes new arrangements and safeguards for the compulsory detention of patients. The Bill will not be enacted until after a general election and will not be implemented until 2007.
- 2.10 Another important development was the publication in June 2004 of the Government report on Mental Health and Social Exclusion. Government policy aims to reduce the stigma, discrimination and social exclusion experienced by people with mental illness and to improve their access to employment, education and day opportunities.

3.0 AUTUMN ASSESSMENT

3.1 Dudley is assessed by the Strategic Health Authority against 44 targets. Our performance in autumn 2004 was as follows:

Green	17
Amber	25
Red	2

The two targets judged to be red are:

Secure places – there is a national shortage of secure places.

Supported employment – this is a new target.

3.2 The Assessment reflected a slight improvement on last year's position and we expect some of the amber targets to turn green during 2005. For example, the early intervention and crisis resolution/home treatment teams are judged to be amber, because they are not yet fully established, but these teams will be in place by April 2005.

3.3 In addition to the Autumn Assessment the Council also reported in October to the Commission for Social Care Inspection on progress with Mental Health Services. A copy of the report submitted to CSCI is attached.

4.0 PROPOSAL

4.1 Good Health Select Committee is asked to consider and comment on the developments in Mental Health Services in Dudley and the Autumn Assessment.

5.0 FINANCE

5.1 Developments in service have been resourced through investments in the Local Delivery Plan and the Council's budget for Social Services.

6.0 LAW

6.1 The Mental Health Act 1983 is the primary legislation relating to provision of Mental Health Services.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 The content of this report is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of the Council.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Good Health Select Committee is asked to consider and comment on the developments in Mental Health Services in Dudley and the outcome of the Autumn Assessment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the beginning of the word "Linda".

Linda Sanders
Director of Social Services