
Meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 9th September 2021

Report of the Director of Adult Social Care

Mental Health in the Community

Purpose

1. This report is being presented in order to outline the future vision of community outreach services pertaining to mental health social care interventions. Infusion will be person centred and strength based. It will be influenced by the expectations and attitudes of the individual accessing the support. Infusion will be collaborative and have strong links with existing service providers, charities, business within the Dudley borough. Individuals will become community members which will enhance social inclusion. It should be noted that Infusion is a working title for what is proposed to be a community outreach mental health service. It is envisioned that this service able to respond and adapt to the different challenges which may be experienced as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, evidence is showing that there has and will continue to be increased referrals to mental health services, there has been marked increase in the amount of individuals presenting to Mental Health services who have not had a psychiatric career.
2. Furthermore, the staff team who are working to develop the infusion vision have started to develop community links with organisations who offer community support in a variety of settings and locations, for example links have been made with faith groups and a community café. These organisations appear to be very keen to work with Dudley MBC. In addition, the infusion team have and will continue to engage community partners by raising awareness by providing physical presentation and through the use of social media. A face book page has been established and is receiving increased attention.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the:-
 - Scrutiny Committee support that the community mental health service embraces the ethos of strengths based inclusive practice. In doing so it is envisioned that the service with provide a life course approach at differing

levels of intervention from primary to secondary, and from acute to chronic presentations

Background

4. Infusion will provide Mental Health prevention services as an integral part of the wider preventive services within Adult Social Care in Dudley.
5. Infusion will be accessible to any citizen within the Dudley borough, who have concerns about own mental health and aims to offer this service to all groups that might have felt unrepresented in the past, through a self-referral system. Additionally, the service will aim to make strong and effective links with the Council Voluntary Service (CVS), Dudley already has significant partnerships in this area. An example of these partnerships is that Healthwatch have 55 connection points to the community across the borough, establishing partnerships with this type of 3rd sector organisation will build on the aim of connecting and promoting community cohesion.
6. Its aim is to be based in the community, to give the individuals the tools to develop a strong network and participation in mainstream activities, which will include, social, educational, personal development, volunteering and employment; resulting in an increase in the individual's personal growth and resilience.
7. These opportunities and meaningful activities will also prevent isolation, loneliness, and deterioration of wellbeing; empowering individuals to manage their mental health and be a valued member of society regardless of disability.
8. Infusion will offer events, workshops, peer led groups and signposting to relevant services; this will have a positive effect on reducing and preventing individuals, that access the service, with mental health relapses and possible psychiatric hospital admissions.
9. Proposed outcomes of social care interventions
 1. Create innovative ways of working to support people to achieve their personal aspirations - demonstrating a range of preventative support measure.
 2. Infusion will be accessed by all individuals requiring preventive mental health support, independently of their background.
 3. Infusion will offer a preventive service to younger members (16 to 18-year olds), who may have mental health needs, to support transition into adult mental health services.
 4. Infusion will enable community members to receive a more focused service with defined outcomes.
 5. Community members achieving their own goals and aspirations
 6. Community members leading inclusive lives within their community.
 7. Community members gaining new skills and tools to enhance and develop potential.
 8. Community members taking positive risks in a planned and managed way.

9. Community members achieving and maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.
 10. Community members to be less reliant in mental health long term services.
 11. The preventative service will reduce psychiatric hospital admission from the community. This will enable a detailed evaluation of the difference the service is making. This will be done by case file audit, listening to individuals' narratives, and monitoring the number of contacts/interventions delivered.
10. Infusion will empower community members to develop skills, be socially inclusive, be resilient which will prevent deterioration in mental health and reduce hospital admission. Infusion will collaborate with micro business, develop and resource peer led groups.

Infusion will promote personal budgets and direct payments.

11. Infusion could create local agile jobs for local people, that could have experienced mental health concerns themselves, providing them with a steady income and financial security, gaining a fulfilling career, feeling positive and more confident. They will learn/develop new skills as individuals and may even discover a hidden talent or passion through their new role and positive about their future and residing in Dudley Borough. Further examples of proposed types of interventions
- Focusing on recovery, prevention and therapeutic intervention through peer-led events, person- centred support groups and community collaboration.
 - To work with GPs, access team, social workers, hospitals, colleges and schools whilst promoting self-referral.
 - To use social media and webinars – especially in response to Covid-19 disruptions to normal service.
 - To manage the transition for existing service users to a community supported service.
 - To set up portals in the Dudley borough developing sustainable connected communities and to scale up project.
 - To target under-represented groups and individuals with poor engagement.
 - Offering time limited support/ events which will help community members to develop and build a level of resilience which will allow them to have greater control over their own lives and reduce dependency on services.
 - Furthermore, in line with the White Paper 2021 work will be actively undertaken to build on the excellent working relationships across the multidisciplinary forum. The paper highlights the importance of reducing duplication, developing local pathways and pooling resource to ensure an effective community offer
 - It is acknowledged that the service will take approximately 18- 24moths to embed into working practices, this recognises the required training and cultural change.

Consultation



12. It is proposed that after the governance requirements associated with service redesign have been approved that there will be a period of consultation which will involve statutory, 3rd sector and community groups. At this juncture it has been suggested that this would be for an initial period of 30 days, but this may be extended if required to ensure appropriate representation. A variety of mediums will be used, to achieve this goal, these will depend on Government guidance re social distancing etc, digital platforms could be used to facilitate consultation, consideration would have to be given to individuals and groups who were not digitally enabled. Furthermore, the service will benefit from a 6 month review in order to ensure that the service offer is appropriate and meeting the needs of the community.

Finance

13. It is not envisioned that there will be any associated costs pressure incurred from this proposal, these have previously been included in the proposed restructure document

Law

14. The project will work within the legal parameters of the following legislation

- 1) Care Act 2014
- 2) Human Rights Act 1998
- 3) Mental Capacity Act 2005
- 4) Equality Act 2010
- 5) Mental HEALTH Act 1983 as amended by the 2007 Act
- 6) Social Work and Children Act 2017

This is not an exhaustive list

Risk Management

15. The proposed service will adhere to the local authorities' policies and procedures. All staff will receive appropriate training for them to deliver a safe and effective community service. It should be noted that no corporate risks have been identified that relate to this proposed service.

Equality Impact

16. The infusion project will strive to deliver and promote an inclusive strengths-based service for people who experience common (primary care) mental illnesses to more severe and enduring mental health conditions (secondary care). The project will adhere to the declared requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and embrace the values of the local authority.
- The infusion project will strive to identify and include individuals who present with protective characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and will also work with individuals who are identified as belonging to hard to reach groups. Information will be accessible and where required bespoke.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

17. The HR Business Partnering team is fully engaged with the proposals and is working with the service to produce a formal consultation/implementation plan, identifying mechanisms of implementing a revised structure in line with relevant Council HR policies.

Commercial/Procurement

18. The proposed service will ensure that the most appropriate professional will lead an individual's care, it is envisioned that this change will have a positive impact on the cost of care packages for example 50/50 splits may be secured.

Council Priorities

19. The proposed model of delivery will seek to ensure that individuals who experience mental health difficulties/illnesses will be able to access appropriate support across the differing care levels, from primary to secondary care. In addition, the ethos of the service will be to ensure prevention and community cohesion are delivered.

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