

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 5 FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT OF REPORT: PROPOSED JOINT SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP – AVON AND WILTSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: COUNCILLOR ROZ WILLIS, PANEL CHAIRMAN

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is asked to endorse Councillor Tom Leimdorfer's nomination to represent the panel in a proposed cross-local Authority Health scrutiny exercise to consider the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) recent quality report on Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP).

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

At the last meeting of the South West Overview and Scrutiny Network (SWOSN) on 24th October 2014 it was proposed that a cross-Local Authority Health scrutiny exercise be arranged to consider the CQC's recent quality report on AWP published in September 2014. This work is being coordinated by Wiltshire County Council and, following soundings taken by officers in December 2014, the Chairman considered that participation in the exercise would be helpful and suggested that Councillor Tom Leimdorfer represent the Panel due to his interest and experience in the area of work.

2. POLICY

The SWOSN was established by South West Councils and is an informal network bringing together officers and Members from across the region to discuss current issues, share learning and best practice, and encourage joint working and networking. The scrutiny exercise proposed by the network is designed to promote better understanding across participating Local Authorities of the implications of the CQC's findings and to consider opportunities to influence the AWP's response (either jointly or separately).

3. DETAILS

In September 2014 the Care Quality Commission published a quality report on AWP as part of their mental health inspection programme. This followed an inspection in June 2014 when a team inspected 39 wards and 27 community services, as well as other specialist services.

The CQC found that AWP must take significant steps to improve the quality of their services and has issued four warning notices requiring the trust to take urgent action to improve. The following local authorities in the South West region commission services from AWP: Bristol,

Wiltshire, Swindon, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset.

Councillor Noeken (Vice-chairman of Wiltshire Council's Health Select Committee) suggested at the recent South West Overview and Scrutiny Network Meeting that a joint exercise would save AWP and participating local authorities' time and resource by bringing all affected parties together for a single scrutiny exercise. It is anticipated that the work will require one full-day workshop and Wiltshire Council have agreed to provide officer support to coordinate the exercise. Participating Councils have been asked to nominate one elected members to act as their representative.

The objectives of the exercise will be that participating local authorities will have greater:

- understanding of the CQC's findings
- understanding and assurance about AWP's current and planned response
- opportunity to influence AWP's and relevant Local Authorities' response to the CQC report; and
- ability to judge appropriate further scrutiny/monitoring.

The aim is that a report be produced by the Joint Working Group setting out its findings, any recommendations for AWP and local authorities, and recommendations for parent Health Overview and Scrutiny committees/panel for further work or monitoring.

4. CONSULTATION

N/A

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

AUTHOR

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