

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,  
Performance & Communications,  
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Adult Mental Health Services in Barnsley  
– Cover Report**

**1.0 Introduction and Summary**

- 1.1 In 2009, the government published 'New horizons: towards a shared vision for mental health' which prioritised personalised services, equality, addressing stigma and improving the physical health of people with mental health problems. This was followed by the publication of the Department of Health's 'No health without mental health' cross-government strategy in 2011 which set out six objectives to improve the health of the population and outcomes for people with mental health problems.
- 1.2 The 'No health without mental health' strategy recognises that mental health is everyone's business and that good mental health and resilience are fundamental to our physical health, our relationships, our education, our training, our work and to achieving our potential. Work has also continued to build on these principles, with the Health and Social Care Act (2012) requiring the NHS to place mental health 'on a par' with physical health.
- 1.3 The Care Act (2014) which is due to be implemented from April 2015 has implications for mental health services. Some changes include a right to advocacy for people who need more support navigating services as well as introducing a single, national threshold to accessing care and support which is likely to place increasing demands on local services.
- 1.4 The attached report provided by BMBC's Head of Mental Health 'Copy C' outlines Mental Health Services in Barnsley. This includes information on the different tiers of services available, specialist teams, figures regarding access to services as well as future developments.
- 1.5 A variety of services are available ranging from those for common mental health difficulties, such as anxiety and depression to those for more severe or long term mental health difficulties which impact significantly on an individual's ability to manage their everyday life without additional support. There is also provision of acute services which provide intensive specialist support either at home or in the inpatient unit.
- 1.6 Barnsley's most recent 'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment' (JSNA) which is from September 2013 and assesses the current and future health and social care needs of the local community, highlights some key points regarding mental health concerns in the borough. These include:

- Of the 30,120 residents who are on out of work benefits, an estimated 14,190 are claiming Employment Support Allowance and incapacity benefits – 41% are claiming due to mental health and behavioural disorders.
- Poor health, particularly mental health can be both a cause and an outcome of long term unemployment.
- In 2012/11 mortality rates for mental health services users aged 19+ was 3.6 times the rate of the general population.
- Research consistently shows that people with mental health problems have higher rates of physical ill health, largely from treatable conditions associated with modifiable risk behaviours such as smoking, substance misuse, and inadequate medical care.

1.7 Considering the profile of mental ill health in Barnsley, it is essential that residents have timely access to services and early intervention. This helps to prevent the need to escalate an individual to access more specialist mental health services as well as preventing the need to access other services such as those for physical ill health and unemployment support.

1.8 A research report by a local former service user focusing on the interactions between South Yorkshire Police and Mental Health Service Users (2014) highlights some key concerns regarding mental health services in the local area. These include:

- Statistics from Kendray Hospital show that 71% of Section 136 detentions are made between 17:00hrs and 09:00hrs i.e. out of hours for the Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs).
- Service users report having been given a Crisis Line number to call between these hours but report that when they have called they got a recorded answerphone message.
- Service users welcome the provision of drop-ins during the day, but would value a 'safe place' to go in the evenings and during the night when they are most at risk of harming themselves, being anxious and are less likely to be able to access others to support them.

1.9 Barnsley service users have also reported concerns regarding knowledge of and access to mental health services, particularly as the care pathway can be confusing to navigate and information online is not easy to access.

1.10 As highlighted in 'Copy C', local services have a number of challenges to meet to deal with increasing demands for services within a decreasing budget whilst also making improvements to services to improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

## **2.0 Invited Witnesses**

2.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting:

- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director, People Directorate, BMBC
- Kyra Ayre, Head of Service, Mental Health/Professional Support Services, BMBC
- Alison Rumbol, Senior Mental Health Commissioner, Joint Commissioning (Partnership in Action), BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)
- Jill Jinks, Business Unit Manager, Specialist Mental Health Services, SWYPFT
- Heidi Baum, Operations Manager, Rotherham and Barnsley Mind
- Kim Fairhurst, Project Manager, Together Barnsley Mental Wellbeing Services

### **3.0 Possible Areas for Investigation**

3.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What is being done to reduce waiting times and improve access to services?
- What is done to ensure service users are aware of the services available to them and what evidence is there to suggest this is effective?
- What work is done to ensure employees of partner agencies have a good understanding of mental health issues, such as South Yorkshire police?
- What are the latest developments in mental health service delivery such as use of mobile technology and what is being done to incorporate these into Barnsley services?
- What is in place to ensure the service can meet the challenges of the implementation of the Care Act as well as decreasing budgets?
- How effective is the collection and use of data at a local level to monitor and predict service demand and thereby reduce waiting times for services?
- How are service user views sought and used to influence the commissioning and delivery of services?
- Does the access to in-patient beds meet the demand in terms of numbers, location and suitability?
- How effective has the 'street triage' team been and are there any plans to continue this service?
- How do you link with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to ensure there is a smooth transition between services?

- To what extent has the Recovery College been a success and are there any plans for its future?
- How do staff case load numbers compare with other local authority areas?
- What support is being given to employees to help them to improve performance/services?
- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in improvements to Adult Mental Health Services?

#### **4.0 Background Papers and Links**

- Copy C (attached) – Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding Adult Mental Health Service Provision in Barnsley.
- ‘New horizons: towards a shared vision for mental health’ (Department of Health, 2009), available at:  
[http://www.recoverydevon.co.uk/download/2010-02-04-299060\\_NewHorizons\\_acc2.pdf](http://www.recoverydevon.co.uk/download/2010-02-04-299060_NewHorizons_acc2.pdf)
- ‘No Health Without Mental Health: A cross-government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages’ (Department of Health, 2011), available at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/138253/dh\\_124058.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/138253/dh_124058.pdf)
- Barnsley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) September (2013), available at:  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/public-health/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-jsna>
- ‘Building Understanding: A research project focussing on interactions between South Yorkshire Police and Mental Health Service Users, in particular those detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983’ (Moira Tombs, 2014), (report available upon request).

#### **5.0 Glossary**

BMBC - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
 CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services  
 CMHTs - Community Mental Health Teams  
 JSNA - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment  
 SWYPFT - South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

#### **6.0 Officer Contact**

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 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015