

Overview and Scrutiny
Response to Mr Lewis' Question about MH Procurement Process and Training Young People into the Health and Social Care Profession

Information to be presented at Overview and Scrutiny:

Question - Mr Lewis asked "has anything developed out of the MHP care procurement?"

Answer - Mental Health procurement process

Unfortunately owing to strict European Union procurement rules we are not able to discuss any details about the process at the moment. We do however want to encourage service user and carer involvement as the process allows. This will enable you to ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have to potential bidders. We anticipate that this will take place towards the end of the summer and we will endeavour to keep you informed of service user and carer engagement opportunities as the procurement process progresses.

Service User and Carer Engagement

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) work closely in partnership with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and providers to address the local mental health agenda, wellbeing, and reduce associated stigma. A number of mental health engagement events have taken place over 2013/14 2014 and most recently in April 2014 there were four 'Lets Talk about mental health' events at the Rufus Centre including:

- Psychosis (15.04.14)
- Complex Needs and Personality Disorder (15.04.14)
- Bi-polar (22.04.14)
- Schizophrenia (22.04.14)

All events have been well attended by service users, carers and providers and we are currently waiting for the breakdown of the feedback received at the most recent 'Let's Talk' events to see 'what works' and if we should be doing anything differently to provide appropriate local mental health care and support.

Question: Mr Lewis also asked "will the new providers be using Government funding to train more qualified staff in mental illness?"

Answer: Funding

CBC awards funding to current providers to deliver services in accordance with identified local need. A part of the contractual agreement is to promote and encourage training and opportunities. CBC, BCCG, and other providers also attend a variety of events over the financial year to promote health and

social care career opportunities and further training development for caring staff.

Question: Mr Lewis' final statement – “training courses along the lines of my draft NVQ submission which is only a tool establishing basic modules that I feel (as a carer) need to be taught”.

Answer: Proposed NVQ care modules

CBC welcome service user and carer direct feedback about the mental health agenda and would like to thank Mr Lewis for compiling an example of modules to equip individuals with qualification within the care industry to encourage young people to enter the profession.

Current Education/Training Opportunities

Central Bedfordshire Council works with a wide range of Care Providers. This includes South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) our NHS provider of community and mental health services; and also providers in the Private, Voluntary and Independent Care Sector. Care is commissioned with the requirement that there is sufficient, capable and skilled workforce to deliver the type of care and support that is needed.

The Director of Social Care, Health, and Housing Mrs Julie Ogley has a statutory responsibility for strategic planning for adult social care workforce. This includes professional leadership and she is accountable for ensuring that relevant professional and occupational standards are maintained across social care services provided by or commissioned by the Council. Mrs Ogley discharges this duty by providing funding and training opportunities for adult social care workforce in Central Bedfordshire.

There are a number of health and social care opportunities that CBC actively promotes in partnership with health and other providers to encourage young people to consider the health and social care sector as a career of choice. Those include:

- 'I Care...Ambassadors' scheme
- All age apprenticeship programme in Health and Social Care.
- Mental Health Diploma programme with carefully planned modules
- Diploma in Health and Social Care which includes optional mental health modules

From March 2015 all health care workers and adult social care workers will be required to complete the new 'Care Certificate' on entry into the sector. This has been developed by Health Education England, Skills for Health and Skills for Care and is currently available in draft form

Statement: We have prepared a brief information leaflet with useful information for Mr Lewis to take away

Leaflet of further information