

Briefing regarding the Closure of the Henderson Hospital, South West London and St. Georges NHS Trust

For Circulation to:

Southwark Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Southwark PCT Management Team

Southwark PCT Board

Southwark Professional Executive Committee

On the 13th December 2007, the Board of South West London and St Georges Hospital NHS Trust, agreed to the closure of their Specialist Mental Health service, the Henderson Hospital (see attached press statement). This brief provides some background to the service and the implications of this decision for Southwark PCT.

Description of the service

The Henderson Hospital is a specialist mental health residential unit with 29 beds and provides a service to men and women over the age of 18, for the treatment of severe personality disorders. The treatment programme is a combination of psychotherapy and sociotherapy and provides a living-learning experience for up to a year, aimed at helping residents deal with the feelings associated with their often abusive, neglectful or traumatic pasts and to find more effective and less harmful ways of managing themselves. The majority of residents are referred by the secondary mental health services because a more intensive and specialist treatment is required than they can provide. Other referrals come from social services, probation and prisons. This service has a national profile, and accepts referrals from across the country.

Service Funding

Prior to April 2006, this service formed part of the NSCAG portfolio of services commissioned nationally, and was therefore funded through NSCAG arrangements.

During 2005/06, NSCAG took the decision to devolved funding to PCTs, and in April 2006 funding was returned to PCTs on a weighted capitation basis. Southwark PCT received the following funding transfer from NSCAG:

2006/07	£51,000 (non-recurrent)
2007/08	£55,000 (recurrent)

(Reference: AWP(06-07)PCT08NSCAG Severe PD Annex A)

Commissioning Arrangements with Henderson Hospital

In 2006/07, Southwark PCT, along with all other PCTs in London, Eastern and the South, agreed to fund the Henderson Hospital at the previous level of NSCAG funding for one year, whilst further service re-design and commissioning discussions took place, Southwark PCT were fully involved in these discussions.

In 2007/08, Southwark PCT, along with some PCTs in London, Eastern and the South agreed to form a consortium, guaranteeing funding to the Henderson Hospital at the level they received from NSCAG. All other PCTs moved to a cost per case arrangement. The consortium has had regular meetings with the Henderson Hospital over the past year to review the service specification, clinical activity and discuss future commissioning intentions.

In the Commissioning Intentions for 2008/09, Southwark PCT proposed to move to a cost per case arrangement due to no new Southwark activity in the service during

2007/08. Prior to this Southwark had one person attend the Henderson in three years. This decision was also taken in line with recent changes to similar contractual arrangements with the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust specialist mental health services, which are now commissioned on a cost and volume basis.

Additionally, due to a similar reduction in activity at the Henderson Hospital, most other PCTs in London, Eastern and the South took a similar view, and decided to withdraw from the consortium and move to a cost per case commissioning arrangement in 2008/09. It was therefore formally agreed that the current consortium would cease at the end of March 2008.

The reduced number of referrals to the service in 2007/08 and the dissolution of the consortium (and therefore guaranteed funding) have led the South West London and St. Georges NHS Trust to take the decision to close the service due to lack of financial stability.

Future Implications for Southwark PCT

Southwark PCT made one referral to this specialist inpatient service in during 2006/7, and has not made any during 2007/8 therefore, there will not be any immediate impact to Southwark in terms of current service users being affected by the closure of the service.

In the future, should any service user require a specialist personality disorder service, as is the case now, their needs will be fully considered though the Southwark Tertiary Panel for mental health services, and an appropriate service will be identified to meet their needs. The Tertiary Panel is chaired by Dr. Eleanor Cole, Clinical Director, Southwark SLaM, and attended by mental health commissioning representatives from the PCT, along with other senior clinicians.

Alternative services that may be considered within the NHS, following the closure of the Henderson Hospital include:

- Intensive Psychological Treatment Services (IPTs), South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- Crisis Recovery (Self-Harm) Unit, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- Cawley Centre (intensive day service) South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- The Cassel, West London Mental Health Trust.

It is proposed that the funding previously allocated to the Henderson Hospital via the existing commissioning arrangements, will remain allocated to the PCT specialist mental health services budget, and will therefore be available to fund alternative specialist mental health treatment for Southwark service users, as required.

Henderson Hospital

'Today at its meeting the Board regrettably decided to close the Henderson Hospital in Sutton. Over the past 18 months managers and staff have worked hard in their attempts to secure a sustainable future for the service.

'This decision reflects the reduction in funded referrals and income from commissioners, and the expectation that this reduction will continue. This is a result of Primary Care Trust commissioners investing in other areas of personality disorder services locally, in line with recent Department of Health policy guidance. The Trust can no longer afford to subsidise the hospital at the expense of other services.

'The Board is committed as a result of this decision to work with commissioners and others to explore the possibility of finding suitable alternative placements for current and future clients and to find suitable alternative employment for staff wherever possible.

'The Board recognised the tremendous contribution that the Henderson has made to the lives of people with personality disorder over the past 60 years. It is with great sadness that this decision has been taken.'

Peter Houghton
Chief Executive

13 December 2007