Specialist mental health day hospital services for older people in the London Borough of Southwark:

Consultation Report

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Southwark Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee
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A recap…

Formal Consultation ran from January to April 2008

Consultation was launched at Southwark Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 23rd January 2008

Consultation followed year-long preliminary discussions with wide range of stakeholders
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Southwark Mental Health of Older Adult (MHOA) services...

Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs): provide 90% of assessment, treatment and monitoring (700 people in Southwark) – we have 2 CMHTs in the Borough (North and South)

Inpatient care: provided at Guy’s and Maudsley Hospitals

Psychological therapies: accessed via CMHTs, includes cognitive behavioural and family therapy

Older Adults Support in Southwark: provides 7 day a week service - includes short-term, intensive care to respond to / avert crisis

Day care: Felix Post Unit, Holmhurst and Evelyn Cole Day Centres

Support and information: Health Ageing Café and Drop-in services
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Felix Post Unit...

30 place day care service for Lambeth and Southwark residents

Based in a converted ward at the Maudsley Hospital

Established in the 1980s when MHOA services were just coming into being

Provides assessment and treatment for people with both acute and chronic mental disorders - including depression, schizophrenia and dementia

Currently used by about 20 Southwark residents
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Proposal for change...

Transfer resources from Felix Post Unit (FPU) to Holmhurst Day Centre

This would involve people moving to the care of South Southwark CMHT (based at Holmhurst, about a mile from the Maudsley)

Holmhurst is a specialist local authority day centre for people with mental health problems, as well as the team base for South Southwark CMHT

Replicates the model of care which works successfully in North Southwark, where services are provided by the CMHT and Evelyn Cole Day Centre

In summary: the same level of service provision - but in a different location
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Case for change…

Providing day care at a psychiatric hospital was the right thing to do 30 years ago - times have moved on, as have clinical services.

The most effective way of providing care is for health and social care to do so in partnership, as we already do in North Southwark.

Holmhurst is a better care environment than the FPU (which is situated in a building no longer fit for purpose).

Holmhurst operates 6 days a week and jointly runs a well established Carers Support Group with South Southwark CMHT and the Alzheimer’s Society.

Everyone who needs support from specialist mental health day care services for older adults will continue to receive it.
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What this is not about...

This not about closing the Felix Post Unit – it is about service changes which build and improve the way we deliver care

This is not about cost saving – it is about providing services closer to home and working more closely with GPs and other health and social care services

This is not about cost shunting to social care – it is about working in partnership with social care, in exactly the same way we already do in North Southwark, to provide people with a more effective service

This is not about cutting diagnostic or therapeutic services – it is about enhancing access to these services and ensuring they are more responsive
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Summary of key points from the consultation 1...

General lack of awareness of services available in Southwark for older people with mental health needs and people with dementia – this had led to polarisation of discussion

Strong clinical support for proposals but concern, particularly from patients and their carers, around how any change would be managed and what it means for ‘me’

Compelling individual examples of how the Felix Post Unit has helped in the past but also a reinforcement of the relationships between Community Mental Health Teams and Day Centres and the integral way in which they work

Further clarity around the money e.g. is this a permanent transfer of staff to the community – answer: Yes
Summary of key points from the consultation 2…

Strong connection to social inclusion, recovery and the wider community – links well to ‘personalisation’ of services

Strong prevailing view that the fabric of the Felix Post Unit building not of a good quality or as well located as day centres

Some ideas around staff mix and roles in Community Mental Health Teams associated with the proposed changes

Managing capacity across Southwark MHOA Service and Day Centres and ensuring sufficient planning time

Improving standards of care and evidencing them in terms of patient and carer outcomes
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Where we go from here…

Proposals agreed by Southwark Older Peoples Partnership Board at their last meeting with important safeguards built in

Now going to SLaM and PCT Boards for final decision

Planning and implementation to commence from October 2008 subject to final approval of boards
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The safeguards 1...

A monitoring and reviewing group, chaired by the Service Manager for Southwark Mental Health of Older Adults will be established to oversee the proposed changes with representation from service users, carers, voluntary sector organisations and clinicians.

The Group would regularly report back to the Southwark Older Peoples Partnership Board and Southwark Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
The safeguards 2...

There will be a 6 month planning and implementation period for the proposed changes to allow maximum sensitively for patients and carers.

For six months following the commencement of the planning and implementation e.g. from October to April the Felix Post Unit will continue to run as a safety net for patients and carers.

Southwark Health and Social Care agreed to review the timetable for outsourcing of Holmhurst day centre to take account of the changes so that they do not overlap.