

JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26th APRIL 2016 – PLACE OF SAFETY

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL COMMISSIONING AND SOCIAL CARE RESPONSE

Summary

This paper sets out the response by Southwark Council commissioning and social care to the proposals of the South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Foundation Trust in the report – “Improving SLAM’s Place of Safety Provision”. This paper has been shared with lead commissioning partners in NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Response by Southwark social care

1. Southwark social care have been involved in a number of discussions at which SLAM have set out both current issues and future proposals for ‘place of safety’ provision across Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.
2. Southwark social care have also noted the significant issues raised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) about current services, and would wish to undertake further work with SLAM and other neighbouring boroughs to ensure that people requiring ‘place of safety’ provision are able to access quality, integrated support – including through access to social care Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs).
3. Southwark social care would have welcomed a more detailed consultation on the SLAM proposals. The Trust recognises it has not followed due process.
4. At this stage, Southwark social care continue to have key concerns about the SLAM proposals. These are set out below:
 - SLAM have not provided sufficient evidence (including detailed financial comparisons) for the rationale behind adopting a one site ‘place of safety’ model as opposed to other options. Southwark social care would have preferred to have received a detailed options appraisal, in particular on the potential for a two-site solution. There is limited information as to whether any other site option has been considered in detail besides the Maudsley site proposal.
 - There is no current solution in place for how the four boroughs will coordinate AMHP services to support the proposed ‘place of safety’ model, including organising AMHP rotas and the potential alignment of out of hour’s services. Very early discussions have taken place between the four boroughs on this issue. However, without more detailed consultation, it needs to be recognised that social care have not until very recently had the level of information needed in order to understand the potential operational impact. There is a risk of a

disproportionate impact on Soutwhark AMHP services without any solution in place.

- The proposal includes specific provision for children under 18 years of age, however there has not been appropriate consultation with Children's Social Care leads in any of the four boroughs.
 - The proposal does not provide sufficient evidence on how those people taken to the 'place of safety' would be able to be helped to integrate back into their own home boroughs. There is a particular risk for homeless people, and for individuals with no recourse to public funds. In this, there is a risk that the proposals would have a disproportionate impact on Southwark housing options and homeless prevention services.
 - Social care have not been provided with detailed information on the proposed site for the 'place of safety' and therefore are unable to comment on the quality or safety aspect of this proposal. Southwark social care would welcome the opportunity to visit the site and to further discuss ensuring that AMHPs are considered as part of the service as a whole.
5. Southwark social care are requesting the commencement of a consultation period in order for all four boroughs to consider these proposals in more detail.
6. The additional consultation period would allow for time to consider other site options, as well as to look at the best configuration of AMHPs and other community services to support a new 'place of safety' model. It is recognised that SLAM would need to take immediate action to ensure that all of its current 'place of safety' services are safe.

Response by Southwark commissioning

7. The statutory duty for the commissioning of 'place of safety' services lies with NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Southwark has a joint approach to commissioning mental health services across the Council and CCG, which is underpinned by a s75 agreement.
8. At this stage, the Council's commissioning team have not been provided with sufficient information to support the proposals set forward by SLAM, including an assessment of the risk of additional financial revenue costs to Southwark Council as the host borough.
9. The Director of Commissioning in the Council notes the concerns raised by social care regarding due process and the impact on AMHPs, and would wish these issues resolved prior to the delivery of a new 'place of safety' service.