

<b>Item No:</b> <b>05</b>	<b>Classification:</b> OPEN	<b>Date:</b> 27 June 2006	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Lambeth & Southwark Statutory Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report Title:</b>		South London & Maudsley NHS Trust Review of Mental Health Crisis Services	
<b>Ward(s) or Group affected:</b>		All Wards [Lambeth and Southwark]	
<b>From:</b>		Lambeth & Southwark Scrutiny Teams	

### **Purpose of meeting**

1. The Joint Committee will:
  - formally receive SLAM's response to its recommendations [those arising from scrutiny of SLAM's proposals for reconfiguration of crisis mental health services of November 2005];
  - decide how to take forward the process of local resolution with the trust. This might include holding an additional meeting or meetings until the Joint Committee is in a position to conclude the process either through reaching local resolution or by referral of the matter to the Secretary of State.
2. To inform this process both Lambeth and Southwark's Primary Care Trusts have been invited to outline the impact of the recently announced 2006/07 financial allocations on the current options for reconfiguration of crisis mental health services in Southwark & Lambeth.

### **Background**

3. The Joint Committee (JC) was established with the specific remit of responding to consultation by South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLAM) on the future of NHS crisis services for people with mental health problems in Lambeth and Southwark. In December 2005 the Trust published a consultation document setting out the reasons for the review and a preferred option for change. The formal SLAM consultation period ran from December 2005 to March 2006 and was mirrored by the scrutiny review undertaken during the same period and concluded with a report to SLAM on 21 March 2006.

4. Under section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, NHS bodies have a specific duty to consult and involve patients and the public in the planning and development of services and in relation to decisions that might affect services. In addition, regulations under section 7 requires that NHS bodies are separately required to consult relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC) on any proposals they may have under consideration for any substantial development of the health service in their area or any proposals to substantially vary service provision. Where proposals affect more than one area, all the relevant OSCs for the area(s) in question must be consulted and if more than one of these OSCs consider that the issue is substantial for their area they must establish a statutory Joint Committee to consider and respond to the proposals.
5. If as a result of the review a Joint Committee or an individual OSC decides that the proposed change is not in the best interests of the health of the local population, and no agreement can be reached locally on the proposals, it has the power to refer the matter to the Secretary of State. The extent of public involvement in the development of the proposals can be taken into account in making any such referral.

#### **Summary of the Joint Committee's work to date**

6. At its first meeting on 20 December 2005 SLAM presented its consultation plans to the Joint Committee, and discussed the local commissioning context for the trust's proposals with Lambeth and Southwark Primary Care Trusts.
7. On 20 and 23 January 2006, the Joint Committee undertook site visits to the Maudsley Hospital Emergency Clinic and the Accident and Emergency departments of both King's College Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital. The second Joint Committee meeting on 23 January 2006 received evidence from mental health professionals from King's, Guy's & St Thomas' and SLAM on the trust's proposals for change to local crisis mental health provision, and sought to understand how each Trust within the local system manages the needs of people in mental health crisis.
8. At its third meeting on 8 February 2006 the Joint Committee received evidence from Rethink, Southwark MIND, Lambeth MIND, Lambeth Police & Community Consultative Group, Lambeth Borough Police, Southwark Borough Police and SLAM Patient & Public Involvement Forum. Discussion focused on understanding the interface(s) between agencies involved with providing services to people in crisis, to hear directly about the challenges this provides to the local system, and perspectives on SLAM's proposals.

9. The fourth meeting on 21 February was arranged to hear service user views. The formal committee meeting, at which individuals and groups working on behalf of people with mental health needs gave their comments in public, was preceded by discussions in small groups comprising service users and members of the Joint Committee at which views could be given informally and in confidence. In addition representatives from the Joint Committee sat in as observers on consultation sessions organized by SLAM for staff potentially affected by the proposals.
10. At the fifth meeting the Committee discussed key concerns about the proposals, inviting input from SLAM, Lambeth and Southwark PCTs prior to drafting the final report, which was subsequently agreed by the JC and submitted to SLAM on 21 March 2006. The JC did not support SLAM's proposals because it determined that proposals were not in the interests of the people and health services of Lambeth and Southwark, and believed that SLAM's consultation on proposals had not fully taken into account the views of service users and providers.

### **Next steps in the statutory process**

11. At this the sixth meeting of the Joint Committee members will formally receive SLAM's response to its final report/recommendations, and on this basis seek to achieve local resolution with the trust on the proposals.
12. The process of local resolution is not prescribed in guidance but might involve further discussion with a trust and additional meeting(s) until the Joint Committee is in a position to conclude the process either through agreement of a way forward or by referral of the matter to the Secretary of State. If referral is made SLAM cannot implement its proposals until the SoS has determined the outcome.

### **Report History**

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