

<b>Item No:</b> <b>05</b>	<b>Classification:</b> OPEN	<b>Date:</b> 20 December 2005	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Joint Lambeth and Southwark Statutory Health Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report Title:</b>		South London & Maudsley NHS Trust Review of Crisis Mental Health Services	
<b>Ward(s) or Group affected:</b>		All Wards	
<b>From:</b>		Scrutiny Teams Lambeth & Southwark	
<b>Report Number:</b> 331/05-06			

### Executive Summary

1. The statutory Joint Lambeth and Southwark Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established with the specific remit of responding to consultation on changes in mental health crisis services provided by the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLAM). The Trust has published a consultation document setting out the reasons for the review and a preferred option for change. This is attached as Appendix A.

### Recommendations

2. That the Committee
  - (a) Receives a presentation from SLAM on the proposals for change arising from the crisis services review and the Trust's plans for public consultation on the proposed changes;
  - (b) Seeks further information from SLAM officers and from officers representing both Lambeth and Southwark PCTs on the proposed changes and review the plans for consultation;
  - (c) Identifies what further information it needs in order to determine whether the proposed changes are in the interests of the residents of Lambeth and Southwark and the health services locally.

### Report History

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## **Background**

3. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established by the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark with a specific remit of responding to consultation on changes in mental health crisis services provided by the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLAM). Both boroughs have separately identified that the proposal options represent a 'substantial variation' in health service provision for residents in their local authority area.
4. In the circumstances where an NHS Trust is required to consult with more than one local authority health overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) on proposals that are considered to be substantial, those OSCs that do consider the matter to be substantial must form a Joint Health OSC to deal with the consultation and to respond on behalf of their communities. In this instance only Lambeth and Southwark have resolved that the matter is substantial.
5. Following the end of the consultation period and submission of the Joint Committee (JC) report to the trust, SLAM will take a decision on its proposals and must respond to the JC within 28 days. The JC will consider the final decision and the adequacy of SLAM's consultation with the JC and decide whether to accept this decision, hold further discussions or refer the matter to the Secretary of State where it feels that either the proposals are not in the interest of local health services or that consultation with the JC has been inadequate.

## **SLAM's Proposed Service Changes**

6. A consultation document on the review of mental health crisis services in Lambeth and Southwark was published by SLAM at the beginning of December 2005 and is attached as Appendix A. The key proposal concerns the future of the Emergency Clinic at the Maudsley Hospital. The Emergency Clinic provides a 'walk-in' service for emergency mental health care 24/7 throughout the year. During 2004/05 3,503-service users attended the Emergency Clinic, the majority of who were from Southwark (52%) and Lambeth (31%).
7. The proposal recommended by the SLAM and by Southwark and Lambeth PCTs is to change the role of the Emergency Clinic to a five-bed Clinical Decisions Unit for people with complex mental health needs and those service users waiting assessment or admission. This would mean that direct access to the Emergency Clinic would no longer be available to people self-presenting in a crisis. Individuals would therefore need to use the other forms of crisis care available in the two boroughs, details of which are set out in the consultation document.

## **SLAM's Consultation Arrangements**

8. Formal consultation on the proposal to change the role of the Emergency Clinic to a Clinical Decisions Unit will take place between 1 December 2005 and 17 March 2006. In addition to Appendix A (consultation document), a summary of the proposal for change is at Appendix B and the Trust's consultation plan is at Appendix C.
9. Whilst the Joint Committee process is separate from the consultation arrangements being undertaken by SLAM, the JC will aim to conclude its scrutiny of the proposal and report on the merits of the proposed changes within the statutory timescale established by SLAM. In coming to its conclusions the JC is likely to wish to inform itself of the wider public and patient consultation undertaken by the Trust during the period and take this into account in its final conclusions.

## **Joint Committee meetings**

10. At this first meeting of the JC representatives from SLAM will present the consultation document, explain the trust's proposals and reasons for the service change and outline proposals for public consultation between December 2005 and March 2006.
11. Representatives from Lambeth and Southwark PCTs, the commissioning organisations for mental health and other services on behalf of local residents, have also been requested to attend the meeting to outline the reasons for their support of the favoured option, and to respond to questions arising from Member discussion thereof.
12. During the course of the review other stakeholders including service users, carers, health professionals and other statutory services, will be invited to give their views to the committee.

## **Conclusion**

13. The attached papers set out proposals for changes in crisis services that are being put forward by the SLAM. In concluding their deliberations the JC will need to reach a view on (a) whether the proposals are in the interests of the residents of Lambeth and Southwark and health services locally and accordingly whether it supports or objects to the proposed changes, and (b) whether consultation with the JC has been adequate.