

TRIGGERS TEMPLATE*

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Trigger	Please comment as applicable
Reasons for the change	
What change is being proposed?	We have started a discussion with our Health and Social Care Commissioners about a proposal for Mental Health of Older Adults Service to reorganise our services to provide crisis support in community settings across 7 days a week and during evenings. This will entail developing a Home Treatment Team for older people with mental health needs. Our current modelling projects that this will reduce the need for some admissions to inpatient beds which are happening at present.
Why is this being proposed?	We believe we can improve the quality of care that we deliver as part of continual service improvement. Our patients have told us that the current community services are not responsive enough and if they are improved this will help them and those they care for avoid being admitted to hospital.
What stage is the proposal at and what is the planned timescale for the change(s)?	This proposal is at an early stage and as outlined above, we are starting to review the evidence base and feasibility of the model with NHS and Social Care Commissioners. Together we will ensure a full impact assessment is made to assure ourselves, that this is the correct way forward for the service. Should it be agreed to proceed with this proposal and redesign the current service, then detailed information on the proposal, along with rationale, evidence base, risk and equality impact assessments as well as anticipated timescales will be made available.
Are you planning to consult on this?	We have undertaken early engagement with patients and carers and will continue to engage with patients, service users and

	those who care for them as part of the meetings with NHS and Social Care Commissioners.
Are changes proposed to the accessibility to services? Briefly describe:	
Changes in opening times for a service	We believe that the proposal, if implemented, will result in an improvement in community services. Service will be available 7 days a week. Currently the Community Mental Health teams operate Monday to Friday only.
Withdrawal of in-patient, out-patient, day patient or diagnostic facilities for one or more speciality from the same location	We believe that this model indicates that as a result of better home care, hospital admissions will be avoided. It is anticipated therefore that with a 7 day week service, people will not need to stay in hospital as long, thereby less hospital beds will be needed.
Relocating an existing service	Not applicable
Changing methods of accessing a service such as the appointment system etc.	This will not change as patients in crisis will access the service through direct referral or via primary care and social care. The response will however improve as the service will be available 7 days a week
Impact on health inequalities - reduced or improved access to all sections of the community e.g. older people; people with learning difficulties/physical and sensory disabilities/mental health needs; black and ethnic minority communities; lone parents.	The proposal, if agreed, will increase access for vulnerable older people out of hours and at weekends. This type of service is already provided for younger vulnerable adults and there is an issue of age equality that this process will address.
What patients will be affected? Briefly describe:	
Changes that affect a local or the whole population, or a particular area in the borough.	We do not believe that there will be any changes. The new team will be accessible to all Southwark residents.
Changes that affect a group of patients accessing a specialised service	We do not believe that there are any changes to the group of patients being served.
Changes that affect particular communities or groups	Not applicable
Are changes proposed to the methods of service delivery? Briefly describe:	
Moving a service into a community setting rather than being hospital based or vice versa	The proposal suggests moving some resources allocated for inpatient services to focus on management of patients requiring crisis support in their homes
Delivering care using new technology	Not applicable
Reorganising services at a strategic level	If this proposal is effective and demonstrates better targeting of resources it can be extended to remaining SLaM boroughs. Similar services have been developed in Merton, Sutton and

	Westminster and we expect that the experience of these services will inform the discussion with our commissioners.
What impact is foreseeable on the wider community? Briefly describe:	
Impact on other services (e.g. children's / adult social care)	It is not envisaged that this service will impact on social care. However modelling is currently being undertaken to assure all stakeholders that this is the case. At this stage, our information does indicate that the model may result in less demand for hospital beds and potentially less demand for continuing care placement because 25% of all admissions to MHOA wards result in patients being referred for continuing care as their independence has been compromised by prolonged hospital stay. This information is also being reviewed by NHS and Social Care Commissioners as part of the ongoing discussion.

* Revised by Lambeth and Southwark scrutiny officers from the West Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny original.