

Date: Wednesday 26 March 2003

Venue: Committee Rooms 3&4, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Adult Mental Health Services National Service Framework

Purpose

1. A paper for the Committee to note on progress of implementation of the adult mental health services National Service Framework.

Background

2. An Implementation Advisory Group was established in February 2002 to oversee and help take forward the Adult Mental Health services strategy and the subsequent National Service Framework (NSF) launched in May 2002.

3. Five people were also seconded to the Assembly Government in February 2002 on a part-time basis to work with Assembly Government officials and the wider advisory group to use their own specialist knowledge and network of contacts to identify problems obstructing implementation, and devise solutions to them. The team of five includes a mental health service user, a carer, as well as a representative from a NHS Trust, a Local Authority and the voluntary sector.

Progress to date

Adult Mental Health Commissioning Guidance

4. Draft adult mental health services commissioning guidance was put out for public consultation on 2 December 2002. Final guidance will be issued this month.

Developing the Care Programme Approach for Wales

5. The Care Programme Approach (CPA) is a co-ordinated system of care management and based on a person centred approach determined by the needs of the individual. The CPA combines Care Planning and Case Management and requires agencies to work to provide integrated services wherever appropriate.

6. CPA guidance has now been developed in Wales, and a guidance document is about to be published. A programme of 12 training/awareness events across Wales began on 6 February 2003 and will be completed by 27 March. Although the NSF target date for full implementation of CPA is December 2004, we hope that sufficient progress is made to implement sooner.

Developing actions to help combat Stigma and Discrimination

7. A small Stigma Action Team was established from the wider advisory group to consider how best to take forward the NSF Standard concerning stigma. A paper "Combating Stigma and Discrimination in Wales" has been produced and its proposals are currently being evaluated.

Developing actions for greater service user and carer empowerment

8. A further sub-group has been established to explore ways of taking forward the Standard on service user and carer involvement. The sub-group is developing a draft 'Charter For Service User and Carer Participation' along with a 'Checklist' for service providers entitled, 'How Good Is Your Involvement Of Service Users And Carers'. It is the intention to issue guidance later this year.

Advocacy

9. Draft guidance has also been developed relating to Hospital Advocacy services, drawing on research from the University of Durham Report. Assembly officials and the Implementation Advisory Group are considering these proposals.

Developing a specification for a baseline assessment of services

10. A specification has been drawn up for a full Service Review of adult mental health services across Wales, this will inform future development of the service. This specification will shortly be out to tender.

Mental Health in Primary Care

11. An 'All Wales Primary Care Mental Health Network' has now been established, and supported by the Assembly Government. This new network has four key aims:

- Act as a conduit for sharing good practice, eventually taking on a consultative role, with a view to influencing policy decisions in connection with the mental health strategy and NSF.
- Identify potential innovators within primary care mental health who can take forward training packages and the provision of high quality education within this field.
- Enable the network group to effect change where necessary, in order to improve the service to users, building on the enthusiasm and participation of those involved in the network, drawing on the support of the Assembly and following the principles identified in the NSF.

- Encourage research into the development of outcome based practice in primary care mental health.

Local Health Boards

12. During March and April 2003 the secondee team will be visiting each LHB area to determine what progress is being made against the NSF, what the barriers are to implementation, and what further help and support the Assembly Government can provide.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications of this paper, which is a paper to note.

Compliance

14. The National Health Service Act 1977 (Section 1) covers the duty to promote a comprehensive health service and provide or secure provision of services. These powers were transferred to the Assembly under the Transfer of Functions Order 1999 and are delegated to the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services.

15. The Government of Wales Act 1998 provides the Assembly with the power to do anything to facilitate, or conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any of its functions (Section 40) and to incur expenditure (Section 85(2)) and to attach conditions to the giving of financial assistance by the Assembly (Section 85(3)). There are no issues of regularity or propriety

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