NHS Rotherham

Board - 13 December

Annual Report from the Joint Learning Disability Service

Contact Details:

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<tr>
<th>Lead Director:</th>
<th>Kath Atkinson</th>
<th>Lead Officer:</th>
<th>Alice Kilner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Director of Strategic Planning &amp; Development</td>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Joint Commissioning Manager</td>
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</tbody>
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Purpose:

The purpose of the paper is to present the Annual Report from the Joint Learning Disability Service, comprising Rotherham Borough Council (the lead provider and lead commissioner) and Rotherham Community Health Services who provide the specialist health services. The report covers the period April 2009 to March 2010 and includes a list of priorities for the current year.

Recommendations:

That Board
(i) Note the content of the attached report and the summary of key objectives for 2010/11.
(ii) In light of Transforming Community Services, note the intentions to require a more detailed assurance on services for people with Learning Disability in the future.

Background:

Learning Disability Services in Rotherham are currently provided by the Joint Service comprising Rotherham Community Health Services (RCHS) and the Local Authority (RMBC). This is governed by a sec 75 Partnership Agreement and a pooled budget. RMBC is the lead commissioner and lead provider for the Joint Learning Disability Service. Following the publication of ‘Valuing People Now’ (DH 2009) NHS commissioners were required to transfer responsibility and the funding for commissioning social care components of services to Local Authorities from April 2009. NHS commissioners retain responsibility for commissioning specialist health services for people with learning disabilities (plus secure and specialist hospital placements and continuing health care which are commissioned from outside the pooled budget) and for ensuring that people with learning disabilities have access to the right treatment and support in mainstream health services.

- The Rotherham Joint Learning Disability Service has been recognised as one of the top-performing services in the country. In 2006 it gained Beacon Status and the current report outlines that its performance continues to be amongst the highest in the Region and nationally.
- The Annual Report has been written by the former Head of Service, who left Rotherham in early October, and will be presented to Board by John Williams a senior manager from the Joint Service.
- The Annual Report will also be presented to the Local Authority Cabinet
Member for
- Adult Independence Health and Wellbeing (previously member for Adult Health and Social Care) and to the Multi-Agency Learning Disability Partnership Board.

### Analysis of Risks:

Future continued strong performance is likely to be more challenging in view of the upcoming budget pressures in health and social care and reconfiguration of services and commissioning following publication of the comprehensive spending review and Health White Paper (Equity and Excellence).

Changes in the senior management structure in the Joint Learning Disability Service, and the upcoming transfer of specialist health services from RCHS to RDASH will also present challenges that health and social care commissioners are jointly addressing through a more robust commissioning and governance structure and a revised Partnership Agreement from 2011.

### Return on Investment:

Following the publication of ‘Valuing People Now’ (DH 2009) the resources for social care commissioning have been transferred from NHSR to RMBC. The funding transfer totals £6.4M, which has stayed in the learning disability pooled budget. Since this transfer the respective contributions to the LD pooled budget in 2010/11 are: NHSR £3.3M and RMBC c£28M.

The Joint LD Service is high performing but also believed by commissioners to be high cost. Current funding pressures are likely to place pressure on the resources available to commission learning disability services in the future.

### Analysis of Key Issues:

The Annual Report of the Joint Learning Disability Service (LDS) outlines the continued strong performance of the service which links its services and priorities to those identified within the Local Authority’s Neighbourhoods and Adults Services Plan. The service also contributes towards the priorities in NHS Rotherham’s plan ‘Better Health Better Lives’ in particular by helping to improve access to specialist and mainstream health care services by people with a learning disability.

The strong performance has been reflected in the service’s contribution to:

- Care Quality Commission (CQC) annual performance rating of Rotherham Adult Social Care performing “excellently” since 2009

- LDS Partnership Board Self Assessment which was submitted to the regional Valuing People support team in March 2010 and achieved over 30 mentions in the Regional Good Practice and Innovations Guide and the following overall comment “A very full and robust submission which highlights a number of good practice areas which we have included in the Good Practice and Innovation Guide which will be shared across the region”.

- Third Annual Health Assessment Framework submission to the Strategic Health Authority further improved, achieving 3 green scores and one amber on the 4 overall targets, resulting in Rotherham achieving the second highest performance across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Feedback on
this process was shared with Board at their meeting on 20th September.

Issues for Health Commissioners

- The report (p3) outlines the changes to health services arising from the Transforming Community Services (Shaping our Future) consultation and the important contribution of the Joint LD Service to improving access to health services, which was recognised in the recent excellent feedback to Rotherham on the annual health assessment.
- The Report also describes (p5) some of the services that are in place to support people’s health, for example the new Nurse Facilitator posts – one if which was funded non-recurrently by NHS Rotherham during 2009/10 and in the current year – and the GP health checks Directed Enhanced Service (DES).
- It mentions on p7 the plan to integrate social care, education and housing information, together with increased information about the health needs of young people in transition into adult services; robust health information at transition is an identified gap in current local processes and this should help health commissioners - particularly Continuing Health Care to plan better for likely increased demands from this group.
- Finally, the report outlines the excellent work undertaken by the Partnership Board in early – mid 2010 – to consult people with a learning disability and family carers about their priorities and to provide them with tailored information and support on these areas, which included health, relationships (including sexual health), Safeguarding and obesity see p8 - 10.

Performance Agenda
The report does not contain any information on performance by the health components of the Joint Learning Disability Service, or on performance against health targets. This will need to be addressed in future performance priorities and in future reports. There is already work underway linked to the recently developed service specifications for health services, and to the current development of a new Partnership Agreement and commissioning processes, to capture and report health information and this will need to be an important priority for the Joint Service for the remainder for 2010/11 and as the services transfer to RDASH in 2011/12.

Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement:
The multi-agency Learning Disability Partnership Board is the focus for engagement by the service and commissioners, with people with a learning disability, with family carers and with the range or statutory and voluntary organisations that provide support to this group of people. The annual report will be presented to the Partnership Board at their meeting in late November.

Equality Impact:
The Joint Learning Disability Service has recently completed an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the RMBC process, and the service specifications for the health components of the service also have EIAs in place. No specific concerns were identified. Work to improve the experience of and access to services by people from BME communities is outlined in the report.
**Financial Implications:**

There are no additional funding requests accompanying this report. However, there is evidence that some Learning Disability clients previously funded from the pooled budget are now in receipt of Continuing Health Care which results in a potential shift in the burden of funding from social care to healthcare. Bearing in mind the increasing pressure on the Continuing Health Care budget experienced in 2010/11 it is important that discussions continue with RMBC to understand the position.

Approved by: John Doherty, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance  
5th November 2010

**Human Resource Implications:**

None of this Report.

The Health Staff in the Joint Service will transfer to RDASH employment by April 2011 following the recent consultation into ‘Shaping our Future’. The process is underway currently.

Approved by: Peter Smith 8th November 2010

**Procurement:**

None of this Report

Approved by: Doug Hershaw, Head of Procurement 4th November 2010

**Key Words:**

Learning Disability; Joint Learning Disability Service; Annual Report 2009/10

**Further Sources of Information:**

- CQC Commissioner assessment guide 2009-10
- Learning Disability Health Self Assessment in Yorkshire and Humber 2009-10
- Valuing People Now: Partnership Board annual self assessment report – Rotherham 2009-10