

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	2 MARCH 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	MENTAL HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR HOSKIN COUNCILLOR EDEN COUNCILLOR STANFORD BEALE	PORTFOLIO:	HEALTH ADULT SOCIAL CARE ACE COMMITTEE MEMBER
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 On 5 November 2015 a report was submitted to the ACE Committee outlining the completion of its tasks and finish role to review the increase in mentally ill absconders from psychiatric hospitals. This work had been led by Councillor Hoskin, Councillor Eden and Councillor Stanford Beale.

1.2 As part of the review, the Task and Finish Group offered further recommendations to the ACE Committee, which were:

- For BHFT to continue to capture robust data and learn from themes;
- For BHFT to continue to source comparator data to enable local performance to be scrutinised;
- For BHFT to monitor the impact of the smoking ban and take necessary mitigation to support those who are detained and smokers; and
- Recommend that the Council and BHFT look at ways of working together to avoid delayed discharges.

1.2 This report sets out to provide the ACE Committee with an update of the work of the Mental Health Absconders Task and Finish Group and to recommend future actions that could be overseen by the continuation of the Task and Finish Group.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 For ACE Committee to agree to the Task and Finish Group commissioning an independent organisation to:

- Review the experience of those who have left the hospital setting either as an 'absconder' or classed as 'AWOL'; and
- To review the experience of patients who have stayed at Prospect Park Hospital to understand their experience of being delayed in hospital whilst their onward care needs are planned for.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Mental illness and the issues associated with this are a key area of work and responsibility for the Council. On 18 January 2016, Policy Committee endorsed a proposal for Reading Borough Council to become a Mental Health Champion as part of a national Mental Health Challenge initiative. This was set up by a group of key mental health organisations. It is funded by the Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England through the 'Voluntary Sector Strategic Partnership Programme'.

3.2 Policy Committee agreed for the Council to take up the Mental Health Challenge and nominated Councillor Hoskin (Lead Member for Health) and Melanie O'Rourke (Head of Adult Social Care) to adopt the role on behalf of the Council.

3.3 This creates a clear context for the work that has already been undertaken by the Mental Health Absconders Task and Finish Group and to take forward issues from there.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 The Task and Finish Group reconvened on 11 January 2016 to re-evaluate its actions and determine whether there was any future role for the Group.

4.2 The Group felt that the original remit of the Task and Finish work had been achieved from an organisational level. However, further work should be undertaken to ensure that the view of individuals who are detained within Prospect Park Hospital were captured.

4.3 Areas of particular interest were whether the smoking ban has had an adverse impact on patient care? Whether patients are aware of their rights as to when they are able to leave the hospital?

4.4 In response to the final recommendation made by the Task and Finish Group, there was a further recommendation for an understanding of the experience of those who are delayed in hospital awaiting discharge from Prospect Park Hospital and whether patients who are delayed in hospital are more likely to leave the hospital at times thus noted as either having Absconded or have been recorded as AWOL.

A list of the proposed questions can be found in Appendix A.

4.5 Therefore the Group recommends that an organisation independent from the Council or Berkshire HealthCare Foundation Trust are commissioned to undertake user experience interviews from PPH patients.

4.6 The aim would be the interviews to be completed and presented to officers to develop an action plan, with a view that this is presented back to ACE Committee at the November 2016 meeting.

4.7 It should be noted that BHFT are currently in the process of a Serious Case Review following a fire related death of someone that was in their care as an inpatient. It is not recommended that this piece of scrutiny work looks into the details of this as there are statutory processes that need to be followed. However it may have an impact on the scrutiny process. This would be reviewed by the scrutiny group with officer input if this were to arise.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6.1 As described in this report, this area of work has not yet focused on the individual experience of patients from Prospect Park Hospital. This will be achieved through the recommended action of an Independent Patient Review.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None identified at this stage

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 Any issues will be identified as part of this work.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The costs of the independent review will be identified if ACE Committee agrees to this work being completed.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 ACE Committee cover report and review document "Scrutiny review into the increase in mentally ill absconders from psychiatric hospitals"

Appendix A

The key lines of enquiry and questions for the independent review:

Mental Health Absconders from PPH

Voluntary admission

- 1) Have you been informed of how to leave the ward?
- 2) Do you know the process?
- 3) Do you need to let people know?
- 4) Have you experienced any problems or issues in leaving the ward?
- 5) Has the smoking ban within the hospital grounds had an impact on you?

Formal inpatients (under Mental Health Assessment or Treatment

- 1) Are your requests for leave 'heard' and acting upon?
- 2) Has the smoking ban had an impact upon you?
- 3) Have you been given support to stop smoking if you wish to?
- 4) Are you supported to leave the ward to smoke a cigarette if you wish to?
- 5) Have you experienced problems with requests to leave the ward?

Delayed Discharges

- 1) At what point in your hospital stay was your discharge planning discussed?
- 2) How were you involved in these 'move on plans'?
- 3) Were your wishes and aspirations listen to and acted upon?
- 4) How were you kept informed of the planning and developments?
- 5) Were you given the opportunity to have an advocate to help you with decision making?
- 6) What more could have been done?

It is proposed that a sample of audits that would be suitable to develop an understanding of themes and areas that could be developed, the following is recommended:

Informal patients - 5 people

Formal patients - 5 people

Delayed discharges - 10 people