

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE OF MEETING:	19 March 2021		
REPORT TITLE:	BHFT Mental Health Strategy		
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ORGANISATION:	Berkshire Healthcare		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an update on the progress of the Berkshire Healthcare Mental Health strategy.

The report attempts to provide a balanced view of what we have been able to deliver against the commitments set out in the Mental Health Strategy, the impact of responding to COVID and the challenges/changes this will mean for the service offer going forward.

The NHS Long Term Plan set out an ongoing commitment to investment in Mental Health services and new models of care, including: a new service model with development of out of hospital care through a new urgent care offer, Primary Care Networks, support to people in care homes and supporting people to age well - all of which are relevant to mental health and the design of mental health services; more action on prevention and health inequalities is highlighted - including the higher risk of poor health experienced by people with severe mental illness; further progress on care quality and outcomes - including children and young people's mental health services as well as adult mental health services; NHS Staff will get the backing they need - including reference to increasing recruitment and retention in medical staff and development of new roles; Digitally enabled care will go mainstream across the NHS - includes the mental health GDE programme, digitally enabled therapy in IAPT services, and children's mental health services. Development of Population Health Management will be underpinned by development in capture/use of mental health data.

Progress on the urgent community response has been accelerated as part of the response to COVID-19. Berks West is part of the BOB Ageing Well accelerator site which aims to deliver the 2-hour urgent response and 2-day reablement standards, both of which have implications for mental health services.

Mental health transformation investment has been made available to Integrated Care Systems and Berks West has submitted Expressions of Interest for Crisis Alternatives, Integration with PCNs, and Suicide Prevention to BOB ICS.

The impact of COVID has been real in our communities for over a year now and our mental health services are simply reflecting that pressure. Whilst our inpatient and community mental health services are under significant pressure, we have continued to be able to provide a service to those in need.

BHFT has a Reducing Health Inequalities due to COVID action plan in place reflecting the eight actions required in the Phase 3 Recovery guidance. We are also developing a Health Inequalities action plan and strategy broader than the requirements set out in the Phase 3 guidance.

Accelerated progress has been made on Digitally enabled care with a blended model of face to face and remote consultations. We have completed an extensive review and remodelling of our estate to ensure all Infection Control protocols can be safely adhered to.

Good progress has been made with the New Models of Care for adult secure, tier four CAMHS and Eating Disorder Services, which has seen the establishment of provider collaborative's taking responsibility for provision of care closer to home and effective management of resources across the whole care pathway. This has reduced the number of some placements made outside the patch and secured financial savings in forensic services.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 The report is for information only

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The Mental Health Strategy exists within the context of the NHS Long Term Plan and the BOB ICS five-year plan. Whilst no national guidance specific to mental health trusts has been released reference to mental health services has been included in COVID guidance.

4. **THE PROPOSAL** - *Not applicable*

5. CONTRIBUTION TO READING'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The BHFT Mental Health Strategy contributes to four of the Reading Health and Wellbeing priorities:

2. Reducing loneliness and social isolation
3. Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people
4. Reducing deaths by suicide
6. Making Reading a place where people can live well with dementia

5.2 The proposal recognises that plans in support of Reading's 2017-20 Health and Wellbeing Strategy should be built on three foundations - safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, recognising and supporting all carers, and high-quality co-ordinated information to support wellbeing. The proposal specifically addresses these in the following ways:

Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

7. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable