

## DEMENTIA AND OLDER PEOPLES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This briefing for the Health Scrutiny Board addresses local access to diagnosis for those with Dementia and also the implications of the forecast reopening of Fernworthy Ward at Torbay Hospital in 2011. The report seeks feedback from the Health Scrutiny Board on the service development outlined.
- 1.2. This paper has been prepared jointly by Devon Partnership Trust and Torbay Care Trust.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Health Scrutiny Board received a briefing in December 2009 on the overall proposals for Older Peoples Mental Health Services provided by Devon Partnership Trust. As indicated at that time the planned changes and improvements to the service were aimed to:
  - a. End inequality of service existing between Older Peoples Services and of those for younger adults.
  - b. Deliver more and improved services to a greater number of people through its community services
  - c. Improve the quality of care on inpatient wards for older people.
- 2.2. Progress continues to be made in the refurbishment of Fernworthy Ward at Torbay Hospital which will provide care for Older People with a Functional illness (e.g. severe depression) and wards at Franklyn Hospital in Exeter. The forecast completion for these developments is summer 2011.
- 2.3. In addition, Devon Partnership Trust has made progress in developing access to an 'all adult service' by adding new posts to the community teams for Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment. Three additional posts have been added to the Torbay team to support access for older people to this service.
- 2.4. With respect to the national requirement for developing early diagnosis and intervention services for Dementia this provision has been available in Torbay for some time but there is a planned increase to reflect the need from a growing older population for greater access to this specialist service.

In the South West there are currently around 73,000 older people with dementia, a number set to rise to over 102,000 by 2021 and increase of 40%. In Torbay the prevalence is estimated as 2929 in 2010 and expected to rise to 3650 in 2021

### 3. ACCESS TO SERVICES

- 3.1. Services to people with Dementia are being developed within the framework of the Torbay Care Trust Strategy for Dementia Care published in 2009. Within that strategy the first objective is to improve public and professional awareness and understanding of Dementia. Work in support of this objective has included the active engagement in national and local awareness raising campaigns, support to local people through memory cafes and targeted work with health partners to ensure those with Dementia receive appropriate support and care in services not specialising in Dementia. Work is ongoing in this area
- 3.2. The second objective of the strategy aims to ensure that there is good quality, early diagnosis and intervention for all. Whilst nationally only a third of people with Dementia receive a formal diagnosis at any time in their illness, a slightly improved position is evident in Torbay. However, the prevalence of Dementia is forecast to increase markedly over the next two decades which signals the need for increased capacity in providing early diagnosis and intervention. It is reported that, within the specialist early diagnosis clinics operating at the Chadwell Centre, 104 people were diagnosed within 2008/09 and 109 within 2009/10. An increased commission of this service will raise the number diagnosed in 2010/11 to 300.
- 3.3. It is understood the Health Scrutiny Board wish to know how the fear of the diagnosis of Dementia could be overcome to encourage people to come forward for formal diagnosis. It is believed that by continuing to raise awareness of the condition and the potential treatment available, the increased access being made available to the local population will be taken up. The early recognition and diagnosis of dementia enables people with dementia, their families and clinicians to plan more effectively in the future and can improve quality of life for both the person living with dementia and their carers
- 3.4. With respect to inpatient care for older people with mental health needs the Scrutiny Board will be conscious that older peoples' mental health services provide for both those with organic conditions (such as Dementia) as well as older people with functional mental illness (such as anxiety and severe depression). Since the previous briefing to this Board there has been further development in the pattern of services locally.
- 3.5. Whilst the vast majority of those requiring specialist mental health care will continue to do so at or close to their home through the community mental health teams a small proportion of those referred (up to 8%) will require at some time inpatient treatment. The number of people not able to be supported entirely in their community setting, and therefore requiring inpatient admission, has been falling in recent years. However it is important that there should be access to appropriate specialised facilities when this need arises and this continues to be available.

- 3.6. The current service to older people in Torbay is met through Brunel Lodge, in Newton Abbot, which provides in the main for those with a functional illness but, occasionally, for those with an organic mental health condition, such as dementia. To comply with good practice guidelines and provide a more appropriate and safe environment for people who need a spell of care in hospital, this dual use of Brunel Lodge will need to be discontinued when the new Fernworthy Ward is available in 2011. This will provide the opportunity for the new ward to focus entirely on the group of people with the greatest need for hospital care, which are those with a functional illness. Over the coming months, both Devon Partnership NHS Trust and Torbay Care Trust will be looking to work with local people to explore the alternatives for providing hospital services for the far smaller number of older people with an organic mental illness. As services become increasingly based upon need, and not age, this may include the use of the existing adult wards at Torbay Hospital where safe and appropriate to do so, and the use of nearby specialist wards for the care of older people with organic mental illness, such as Franklyn Hospital in Exeter - which is due to re-open following refurbishment in summer 2011.

#### **4. QUALITY OF SERVICE**

- 4.1. The aim of the planned change to services is clearly to improve the standard of the range of services available to older people. The standards are being improved through better ward environments, improved ward staffing levels, new access to all adult community services (crisis resolution/home treatment teams), increased early diagnosis and intervention, information and carer support.

#### **5. PATIENTS AND CARERS**

- 5.1. The changes respond to feedback received from the community served, commissioners, and the regulator (CQC) as well as national and local policy with respect to dementia care. Carers and local groups have been closely involved in the development and provision of information and support throughout the period of change.

#### **6. THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

- 6.1. The broader focus of development on provision for those with dementia has enabled improved planning and joint work with partners in health and social care. Engagement with other hospitals and care homes in the provision of care will continue.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1. It is essential that the planned services will be sustainable in the long term both clinically and financially. The overall programme for Devon and Torbay ensures that the service will remain cost effective while enabling more people to access a high quality specialist service. The cost of small inefficient units will be avoided. The local Torbay community service,

being the first part of the service to undertake the changes in past years, is not changed.

## **8. ANTICIPATED CLIMATE OF OPINION**

- 8.1. The local service for Torbay will continue to offer an appropriate and highly regarded service. The development of the refurbished Fernworthy ward for those with a mental illness will be widely welcomed in 2011. The provision of specialist inpatient care in Franklyn Hospital, Exeter from 2011 for those with dementia who may require this for a short time will be a disappointment to the ambition to offer services locally to Torbay but may be necessary to secure sustainable access to such specialist provision.

## **9. ACTION REQUIRED OF HEALTH SCRUTINY**

- 9.1. The Health Scrutiny Board is recommended to note the developing improved access to early diagnosis and intervention in dementia, the planned reopening of refurbished wards in Torbay and Exeter in 2011, and offer comment and feedback to Devon Partnership Trust and Torbay Care Trust on the plans for OPMH services.

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