

Report Title: **Service Changes to Haringey Mental Health Services - Consultation by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust**

Report of: **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non-Key Decision**

**1. Purpose**

To report on the consultation that it being undertaken by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust on proposed changes to its mental health services within the Borough and the role of the Committee in responding to these.

**2. Recommendations**

That the Committee consider and comment on the proposals by the Mental Health Trust, as appropriate.

Contact Officer: **Rob Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer**

Tele: **020 8489 2921**

E-Mail: **rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk**

**4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

Not applicable

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

The background papers relating to this report are:

Haringey Health Scrutiny Protocols

These can be obtained from Robert Mack – Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 020 8489 2921,  
7<sup>th</sup>. Floor, River Park House

## 6. Report

- 6.1 Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust is undertaking a series of consultations within each of the Boroughs that it covers on how its community services can be organised more effectively to deal with the current and future needs of people with mental health problems. A consultation in Barnet has already been completed and similar exercises are currently taking place in Enfield and Haringey. In particular, it is looking at how they balance the need to meet needs of people who are seriously mentally ill with providing support to enable primary care practitioners (mainly GP practices) to work effectively with people who do not require support from a specialist mental health provider.
- 6.2 Service users who were once treated in hospital are now increasingly cared for in the community and these changes are seen by the Trust as being part of this trend. The majority of people who have a mental illness (90%) are seen in primary care and it is felt necessary to build capacity here to enable primary care to meet demand. These issues were covered in the recent scrutiny review on mental health and early intervention which also emphasised this need as well as the importance of ensuring that there are strong links with specialist services.
- 6.3 There is a general requirement for NHS bodies to consult with patients and the public, including a duty to consult with Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001. In addition, there is also a specific duty to consult on what are termed as “substantial variations” to local services under Section 7 of the Act. Discussions have taken place with the Trust on their proposals and, in particular, if they could be described as constituting a “substantial variation or development” to services. Any proposals that are considered to fall into this category are subject to a statutory consultation process with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.4 The consensus of opinion amongst relevant stakeholders, including the Mental Health Trust and Social Services, is that whilst the proposals do not constitute substantial variations to services they nevertheless entail a significant reorganisation of local provision. Concurrence with this view by the Committee would still give it the power to make comments and recommendations to the Mental Health Trust as appropriate under its Section 11 powers but without the power of referral to the Secretary of State that applies to consultation under Section 7 of the Act. The consultation period on the proposals lasts until 29 September.
- 6.5 In order to assist in the deliberations of the Committee, a number of relevant stakeholders and user representatives and advocates have invited to attend the meeting to give their views and answer questions. the local health service. The detailed consultation documents are attached to this report as Appendix A.

## **7. Comments of Head of Legal Services**

7.1 The legal implications of this report are spelt out in the main body of the report.

## **8. Comments of the Director of Finance**

8.1 Although there is no financial information outlined in this report, the Committee will need to satisfy itself that any financial implications that may result from changes to Mental Health services are appropriately dealt with given the current financial position of the service.

## **9. Equalities Implications**

9.1 One key area that the Committee will need to consider when making its comments will be whether the proposals by the Mental Health Trust affect all members of the community equally.