

Meeting of Lanarkshire NHS
Board

28th May 2008

Lanarkshire NHS Board
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SUBJECT : Mental Welfare Commission End of Year Review Meeting

1. Purpose of Report

This report has been prepared to update the NHS Lanarkshire Board on the outcomes of the Mental Welfare Commission end of year review meeting with NHS Lanarkshire and its Partners on Tuesday 6th May 2008. This is the culmination of a series of planned and unannounced visits to Mental Health sites throughout the year.

2. Background

The Mental Welfare Commission's visiting programme is one of the main ways in which the Commission fulfils its statutory obligations. The Commission meet with patients, staff, relatives, advocates and other interested parties.

During the course of 2007/2008 the Commission carried out visits to all of the Psychiatric In-patient facilities within Lanarkshire as well as a range of visits to Community facilities. This included the Acute In-patient Wards at Hairmyres, Monklands and Wishaw; Tiree and Iona wards on the Hartwoodhill site; Coathill Hospital; Kirklands Hospital as well as carrying out a specific review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health services, with a particular focus around services for adolescents between the ages of 16 to 18.

At the end of each of these visits the Commission prepare a short report and meet with local service managers to discuss any relevant issues raised during the visit. These reports have been used to develop local remedial action plans. Following this, both the Mental Welfare Commission report and the remedial action plans are shared across the service to ensure that learning opportunities are optimised.

At the end of the programme of visits the Mental Welfare Commission meet with NHS Lanarkshire and its Partners for a general review and to discuss progress against the specific issues identified during site visits to ensure that satisfactory progress is being made in these areas.

3. End of Year Meeting

Prior to the meeting the Mental Welfare Commission had forwarded a brief report on their overall findings from the visiting programme across Lanarkshire in 2007/08. The

Commission reported that overall they were very impressed with the Mental Health Modernisation programme and that they had taken an opportunity to access the update report that had gone to the NHS Lanarkshire Board in April. They are keen to monitor how the service developments set out in that paper will impact on the quality of services to patients. This is an area that they will wish to discuss in more detail in the coming year. It was noted that overall the service visits have been very positive and a number of good practice areas have been identified. The Commission has taken an opportunity to list these on their Principles into Practice Network website to share with other health systems.

The Commission did however point out a number of areas where they wished NHS Lanarkshire to take particular improvement actions. These include:

- Hartwoodhill – The Commission were very positive around the improvements made to the environments at Hartwoodhill as the site retracts. However they did point out that the bathing facilities in the Tiree ward in Hartwoodhill are inadequate, with only one shower and two bathrooms for 24 patients. The Commission remain critical about the lack of intensive psychiatric care provision and reiterated that Iona ward is not fit for purpose. They were however satisfied that there will be specific IPCU provision within the proposed new Acute Psychiatry developments at Monklands and Hairmyres Hospitals. In the meantime they noted that the staffing levels within the existing Acute Psychiatric units had been augmented to facilitate increased supervision of those patients with intensive care needs without their removal to a dedicated IPCU facility.
- Coathill Hospital – The Commission expressed concerns around the staffing levels within the units at Coathill and whether staff have adequate training to manage patients with challenging behaviour. These concerns are being explored in more detail as the Commission report on this issue was only received in the last few days and appears to centre around the comments made by an individual member of staff.
- Monklands Acute Unit – The Commission raised issues around the levels of privacy for patients, particularly noting the sleeping bays are highly visible from the corridor areas.
- Kirklands – The main concern with Learning Disability Services remains the delay in finalising the care arrangements for those residents from South Lanarkshire. The Commission were updated on the transition plan for residents transferring to Cambuslang and are keen that there is no further slippage on this timetable.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – The Commission were keen to discuss the NHS Lanarkshire protocols around the management of adolescents who require to be admitted to either a Paediatric Ward or to an adult Acute Psychiatry Unit. They were also keen to discuss the transitional arrangements for those adolescents who have moved into the adult services. Duncan Clark had prepared a short paper setting out how NHS Lanarkshire has developed the service protocols and established appropriate training for the various staffing disciplines involved in delivering this service. The Commission were satisfied with this approach and will maintain a watching brief.

The Commission also welcomed the remedial action plan to address the concerns raised last year in respect of the management of patient MK

4. Conclusion

The NHS Lanarkshire Board are asked to note:

- That whilst the general feedback from the Mental Welfare Commission visit has been very positive with examples of good practice being listed on their Principles into Practice Network, the Commission have identified a number of areas of concern for which remedial action plans are now in place.
- That the Commission are very pleased with the ambitious service modernisation programme and the planned capital development programme and are keen to monitor how these plans are progressed. The Commission are also keen to see the impact of the additional investment and service development programme on the quality of patient care, including speed of access.
- The Board is also asked to call for progress reports on a twice per annum basis that focus on existing remedial action plans and the outcomes of ongoing MWC visits.

5. Further Information

For further information or clarification of any issues in this paper please contact Mr Colin Sloey, Director North Lanarkshire CHP, telephone: 01698 245001.

Colin Sloey
Director of North Lanarkshire CHP
13.05.08