

Comment of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Bolton Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust.

Because this committee has a general overview role, it only meets quarterly and it is still developing its role, members decided that as well as looking at its own work over the past year, it is also important to consider any work done relating to the trust in the three individual health scrutiny committees to provide evidence for any comment.

With this in mind we have looked at the core standards and determined areas where we could make a valid, evidence based comment. This commentary has been shared and agreed with the representative members and supporting officers from the three authorities.

Core Standard C6:

Health care organisations co-operate with each other and social care organisations to ensure patient's individual needs are properly managed and met.

The committee is aware of the trust's work across the boundaries of the three local authorities and four PCTs, and the range of specialist services it provides to meet patients needs in Greater Manchester, and the whole of the Northwest. Cooperation and joint working are vital to ensure effective service delivery.

The trust attended the individual authority's scrutiny committees (Bolton and Salford) to report on the Consultation on Proposals for the Re-configuration of In-patient beds and also fed back the responses, and then returned to scrutiny to address concerns raised.

Core standard C17 the views of patients their carers and others are sought and taken into account in designing, planning, delivering and improving healthcare services

Salford and Bolton's Health Scrutiny committees were also consulted on the Joint proposals for the modernisation of community mental health services for older people and their carers. In Salford proposals were set out by the council's Community Health and Social Care Directorate, Salford Primary Care Trust and Bolton Salford and Trafford Mental Health Trust, in a consultation paper entitled "Consultation on the reconfiguration of mental health services for older people -delivering community based assessment and support; day services and respite care provision."

In a similar joint consultation in Bolton proposals were set out in a paper "Consultation on the reconfiguration of Older People's in-patient services and Belmont Day Hospital." This paper also looked at expanding community care provision and strengthening the capacity of community mental health teams.

The proposals are for the first stage of the development of a whole-system of integrated services for older people with mental health needs and a significant part of the trusts work towards maximising the use of resources and improving services to patients and carers.

C 7 Healthcare organisations a) apply the principles of sound clinical and corporate governance.

The joint scrutiny committee exists to undertake all the necessary functions of a Scrutiny Committee in accordance with section 7 and 8, of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and associated regulations and guidance relating to reviewing and scrutinising health service matters provided by the Trust. The committee is still developing its role and is on a steep learning curve but appreciates the help and support of the trust staff.

The committee have undertaken to familiarise themselves with the facilities the trust provide by visiting the various centres. So far visits were arranged to centres Kenyon House, the Adult Drug Dependence Treatment Unit and the Gardener Unit a secure unit for 11-18 year old males.

C13 healthcare organisations have systems in place to ensure that staff treat patients, their relatives and carers with dignity and respect.

From the visits undertaken so far the committee have seen first hand the how staff treat the patients with dignity and respect and provide opportunities for patients to develop life skills and offer after care treatment plans.

Also future capital developments will see increases in the number of single sex treatment units.

There are provisions available for patients of various religions.

At Kenyon house, the use of treatment agreements with patients is an example of how the trust provides treatment to meet an individuals needs but also reflects the dignity and respect that is given to each patient as their consent and cooperation for treatment is gained by mutual negotiation.

C15 where healthcare organisation provide food they have systems in place to ensure that patients have a choice and that it is prepared safely and provided a balanced diet

On their visits this year, members have seen for themselves the efforts the trust has made to provide choice and a balanced diet to patients. Within the Gardener Unit the trust provide a chef to assist to prepare food and help with a balanced healthy diet for patients. In Kenyon House help and assistance is given to patients to help them prepare food and understand more about the importance of their diet.