

9.10.2013

Report for Cambridge Local Health Partnership Meeting 24.10.2013

Purpose To update the Partnership Board on how housing related services for people with mental health issues is being integrated into mainstream commissioning and links to Priority 4 of The Health and Wellbeing Strategy. "Create a safe environment and help to build strong communities, wellbeing and mental health"

Points

- Nearly all supported housing accommodation services were retendered in April 2011, the provider is Metropolitan Housing. There are a total of 166 units, (a unit equals one person) the vast majority are in Cambridge City or outskirts
- All former Supporting People funded supported accommodation funding is now integrated into the mental health social care budget. Before this consolidation some services were partly or completely funded by the social care mental health budget which meant understanding the unit cost of each service was more difficult. This bringing together of budget streams has enabled the development of a clearer model of funding and support.
- A clear accommodation model was developed for the tender based on a range of support ranging from visiting community support to developing intensive support services as an alternative to residential care.
- Support hours are now based on a model of personalisation; hours vary according to a persons needs.
- All referrals for supported accommodation now come though the Mental Health Accommodation panel. This is a monthly meeting chaired by the Social Care Manager employed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Foundation Trust. Local accommodation and residential providers attend. The panel has ensured that resources are used effectively.
- The County also contract with CRI, the street outreach service. A worker is based fulltime at Fulbourn Hospital and assesses all people admitted to the wards for housing need. This has enabled people to retain their accommodation and where appropriate to be placed in alternative provision.

- In addition to the supported housing contracts Cambridgeshire County Council contract with a number of third sector providers for mental visiting community support services known as Home and Community Support Services.

Future Developments

Work since April 2011 has included the closure of some of the group homes and the development of clusters of flats/houses as an alternative. The difference is people do not have to share facilities such as bathrooms or kitchens. The total number of units has remained the same

There is a new intensive support/reablement project being developed currently at Cambridge Road, Fulbourn. It is expected to open in February 2014. This will be a 17 unit provision. Eight of the units will be high level support and the remaining 9 low level support. The model of accommodation is based on a quadrangle of one or 2 bed houses. There will be a staff office on the site. The model is designed so that people do not have to share but if they wish to share with another person as a personal preference this can be facilitated.

The intensive support units will be used as an alternative to residential care. Research does indicate that people can rehabilitate faster if they remain in a local service.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

These support services do support Priority 4 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy by being focused on recovery and by enabling people to live as independently as possible in their local community. The model is based on personalisation and enabling people to move from higher level support to lower level support services. People are assessed through a care plan for the amount of support they require for their needs. Evidence that this is working has been the increased number of people moving through the system. The service offers an alternative to residential care so people do not have to leave the County and they can be enabled to move on to lower level support services.

David Frampton
Mental Health Commissioning Manager
Cambridgeshire County Council