

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP ON ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Role and Purpose of the Task and Finish Working Group

The Task and Finish Working Group is a working group of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), and is appointed in accordance with the Constitution of Hampshire County Council.

The Task and Finish Group's purpose is to explore the concerns raised by the HOSC at its meeting held on 27 March 2012 in relation to changes to adult mental health services in Hampshire.

2. Scope of the Task and Finish Group

The HOSC have scrutinised changes to Adult Mental Health services proposed by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust since July 2011. The Trust have sought support for their plans to extend community based alternatives to hospital based care (where appropriate) for adults with Mental Health needs, which in turn would enable a reduction in the number of inpatient Adult Mental Health beds.

Following robust debate and deliberations in relation to the Trust's plans, Members have noted the continued questions that had been raised about the evidence supporting the proposed changes. The Task and Finish Group will therefore seek to explore the following concerns raised (subject to confirmation at the initial meeting of the Group):

- (a)** Bed demand and bed management – to establish the levels of bed demand and how this is being managed during the transition, and to provide assurance that further reductions can be safely managed.
- (b)** To establish what level of spare capacity is appropriate to enable operational management of peaks and troughs in demand during the year, including flexibility across gender-assigned beds. To establish on what evidence the remaining beds for Hampshire are considered sufficient for the population served.
- (c)** How remaining units meet service users needs and support recovery, including the availability of en-suite facilities.
- (d)** What support will be available 24/7 to support service users in the community who would previously have been treated as inpatients.

3. Method

The Task and Finish Working Group will consider the evidence received by the HOSC to date from the relevant NHS Body, and the information

provided by other stakeholders such as those that made deputations at the meeting held on 27 March 2012. Where the Working Group requires further information in order to pursue the concerns outlined in the scope, such information will be requested.

The Working Group will receive independent guidance and advice from the Chief Executive of Solent Mind, an independent registered charity, which provides mental health services across Hampshire.

4. Membership

The Task and Finish Working Group shall be a cross party group made up of five Members of the HOSC. Independent representation will be requested from the Hampshire Local Involvement Network (LINK).

5. Meetings

The Working Group shall meet as a matter of urgency following the 27 March 2012 meeting. It shall meet as often as required to satisfactorily explore concerns raised.

6. Code of Conduct

Elected Members of the Working Group shall comply with the Hampshire County Council Code of Conduct applicable to Members.

7. Reporting

The Working Group will report its findings to the HOSC meeting scheduled for 22 May 2012. The relevant NHS Body may be requested to attend this meeting to respond to the findings of the Working Group. If the Working Group, as a result of its considerations, has significant concerns regarding the ongoing implementation of the Trust's proposals, this will be handled as a matter of urgency prior to the May meeting through the Chairman communicating to the Trust on behalf of the Committee.

The Working Group will cease to exist once its purpose has been fulfilled.