

**Cllr Vic Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Key Issues Briefing Note**

Health & Wellbeing Select Committee January 2016

Delivery of 24/7 Mental Health Liaison Service in the Royal United Hospital

Mental health liaison services for people with dementia and adults of working age provided by Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP) based in the Royal United Hospital enable the earlier identification and treatment of people with mental health problems and supported diagnosis and care of older clients with dementia as well as supporting discharge from hospital. This active management of the care pathway ensures that there are very low numbers of patients considered to be Delayed Transfers of Care in the RUH attributable to mental health needs.

I am pleased to confirm that investment from both the CCG and, also, NHS England in a “twilight” service, extending until midnight, when AWP’s Intensive Team takes over provision until 8am, the Mental Health Liaison Service will operate on a 7-day a week, 24 hour basis. This is a key service to ensure Parity of Esteem in the acute hospital and, also, the provision of 7-day services, improving care and the experience people experiencing a mental health crisis and, also their carers/family members. The service also enhances partnership working between providers of health and care and other partner organisations, including the Police.

Additional accommodation-based services for men and women with complex needs who are fleeing domestic abuse

Back in October we submitted a partnership bid to DCLG for £100k worth of funding to set up additional accommodation based services for women and men who have complex needs and are fleeing domestic abuse. The Council will be working closely with Curo, DHI, Julian House and Next Link to set up the new service. The funding will enable the establishment of 8 additional units of accommodation in Bath and North East Somerset and the employment of two part-time support workers who will act as a lead professional to help build resilience and support recovery and to link the clients in with existing services and activities where necessary.

Between a minimum of 24 and a maximum of 32 victims and their families will be helped in the 8 new units of refuge accommodation. The service will be able to support local clients with complex needs including clients known to Connecting Families Team and other high support services as well as those with larger families.

Locally, data from DHI suggests that 41 women currently known to the substance misuse service are victims of domestic abuse and also have housing issues. In addition, a recent audit of clients who had detoxed from alcohol only to start using again identified 8 out of 25 clients as being vulnerable local women with issues around domestic violence and other complex needs. This cohort is frequently so marginalised and excluded that they will not present to Domestic Abuse Refuge Services and can remain in unsafe situations, often

rough sleeping and mixing with men who pose a threat to them. Priority for the new units will be given to these clients who without such services continue to be 'blue light clients' who have frequent unplanned contact with emergency health and criminal justice services.

Substance Misuse Services

A new PAD (Post Alcohol Detox) service - jointly designed by Solon Housing, DHI and SDAS (Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service) to support a gap in service for complex clients facing social exclusion as a result of combined problematic alcohol and housing issues - was launched on 25th November 2015. The 5-bed service is based in Rackfield House for clients who have already under-gone an alcohol detoxification and are vulnerable. Therapeutic support is provided by DHI and SDAS to reduce the risk of relapse. This innovative initiative has been achieved at no additional cost through collaborative working. The service is already full and providers may explore the need for an additional woman-only house.

DHI and SDAS are delivering a successful peer mentoring and student social work programme to complement their commissioned services. DHI are now Bath University's preferred employer for social work placements. Social work students and a team of 18 peer mentors and 15 volunteers support clients to over-come their drug and alcohol dependence and sustain their recovery, for example, by supporting clients going through a medical detox; or to build recovery capital through jobs and benefits workshops, wellbeing and college courses.