

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	16 December 2003
<b>Subject:</b>	Mental Health Best Value – Follow-up Report
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	Executive Director, People First
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Social Services Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value
<b>Status:</b>	Part 1
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix A: Report to Best Value Advisory Panel of 11 September 2003 Appendix B: Follow-up Report to Best Value Advisory Panel presented to Members' Briefing on 11 November 2003 Appendix C: Service Improvement Plan  Please note that the appendices have been circulated in the Supporting Documents Pack

### 1. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

- 1.1 Cabinet have already endorsed most of the Mental Health Best Value recommendations. This will complete the process.

### 2. Recommendations (for decision by Cabinet)

- 2.1 **To approve 3 revised recommendations and service improvement plan arising from Best Value Advisory Panel of 11 September 2003 set out in paragraph 6.3**

**REASON: To finalise approval of full Best Value report and enable implementation of service improvements to progress**

### 3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

- 3.1 None applicable.

#### 4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 This report relates to a Best Value project on Mental Health carried out under the umbrella of a broad cross-cutting review called Caring Harrow for which the initial commissioning and scoping report was approved in February 2002. A revised programme for Caring Harrow and the scope of the Mental Health Review were presented to the Best Value Advisory Panel on 25 November 2002. The final Mental Health report was presented to Panel on 11 September 2003 and referred on to Cabinet.

#### 5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The Mental Health review, which was called "Moving to Independent Living", was based on the corporate priorities in relation to social inclusion, maximising the independence of disabled and chronically ill people and meeting the economic, social and cultural needs of different communities.

#### 6. **Background Information and options considered**

- 6.1 **At the Best Value Advisory Panel Meeting of 11 September 2003** the Panel resolved to recommend that Cabinet agree with the Best Value Advisory Panel's recommendation to implement the following:

**Recommendation 1:** Early discharge planning for people in the acute unit with housing to be facilitated by prompt liaison with housing.

Resource/Other Implications: Change of procedures on acute ward has already been agreed but could be further helped by creation of Accommodation Officer post (See Recommendation 4 below).

**Recommendation 2:** Housing Assessment to be integrated in work of residential panel by inclusion of service representative in panel meetings.

Resource/other implications: Could initially be contained within existing resources but would be significantly improved by Accommodation Officer post (See Recommendation 4 below).

**Recommendation 3:** Set up Mental Health Information Group including service user/carer representatives to produce leaflets.

Resource/other implications: Staff time could be contained within existing resources. Estimated printing costs of leaflets: £1000-1500. Estimated cost for service user payment: not more than £200.

**Recommendation 4:** Create specialist Accommodation Officer post focussed on needs of mentally ill people.

Resource/Other Implications: Estimated cost of £40000 (subject to outcome of evaluation). Potential for joint funding from Supporting People (promotion of independent living) and Local Authority invest to save bid based on estimated savings of not less than £50000 which could be achieved by bringing some people back from costly out-Borough placements to accommodation in Harrow.

**Recommendation 5:** Improve operation of Residential Panel by using the proposed Accommodation Officer post to carry out work between panel meeting, by incorporating Housing representation (see Rec1 above) and considering the adoption of the

standardised matrix for matching service users' support needs to appropriate accommodation.

Resource/Other Implications: Staff time to be contained within existing resources with exception of potential Accommodation Officer for which funding opportunities identified above.

**Recommendation 6:** Develop Rehabilitation Team to work closely with service users to enable them to develop the skills and confidence to manage (more) independent living.  
Resource/Other Implications: Additional funding of £100000 already agreed via Supporting People.

**Recommendation 8:** Provide direct support to mentally ill people with their applications to the Locata Scheme through the proposed Accommodation Officer post. (See Recommendation 4).

**Recommendation 10:** Improve provision of leaflets and service information available in different languages and formats (See Recommendation 3).

**Recommendation 11:** Support mentally ill people seeking work experience and permanent employment through creation of Local Employment Co-ordinator post linked with Mental Health Trust proposed Vocational Services Manager.  
Resource/Other Implications: Funding is already available within HUMHS from Bridge and Wiseworks Salaries budgets by reconfiguration of existing posts.

[**REASON:** To implement specified recommendations featured in the Best Value review, with the aim of improving existing Mental Health Services offered in the Borough.]

6.2 Panel also resolved that officers should return to panel with more evidence of the financial case and need for Recommendations 7,9 and 12:

**Recommendation 7:** Develop increased housing capacity in the system by

- a) PFI bid for supported housing development with potential to provide 12 MH places per year over 3-5 years. Bid currently being costed by financial advisors.
- b) Exploring options for development of new Asian unit (former Asra site).
- c) Undertaking discussions with Housing Associations to develop Asian unit in partnership with other boroughs.

Resource/Other Implications: Contracts Manager time. Funding bids to ODPM, Housing Corporation and with other Local Authorities.

**Recommendation 9:** Develop specialist housing provision. (See Recommendation 7 with related resource information).

**Recommendation 12:** Detailed investigation of costs of staffed residential mental health units to be undertaken and any options for changes identified.

6.3 **At the Best Value Panel briefing held on 11 November 2003** officers provided detailed background information as requested and submitted revised recommendations as follow:

**Recommendation 7:** to increase the housing capacity for people with mental health problems by:

- a) Endorsing the development of the PFI bid as originally proposed in the report presented on 8 September 2003.
- b) Supporting a review of existing residential units to create women-only provision.

**Recommendation 9:** Undertake a Mental Health needs analysis in relation to black and ethnic minority communities.

**Recommendation 12:** To carry out further work to identify the potential to improve cost effectiveness of current residential units without loss of quality through:

- a) Review of Harrow Assessment Unit
- b) Review of budget provision for day care provided within long-stay units.

Members present at the briefing, who were the majority of the panel, were satisfied with the additional information provided and fully endorsed the revised recommendations. As there was no other agenda item for it they asked the chair to find out if the Best Value Advisory Panel meeting scheduled for 19 November could be cancelled and the remaining recommendations cleared through another route. The chair of the panel undertook to follow through their request with the result that final clearance through Cabinet was recommended.

## 7. **Consultation**

- 7.1 See Appendix A, Report to Best Value Advisory Panel of 11 September 2003.

## 8. **Finance Observations**

- 8.1 N/A

## 9. **Legal Observations**

- 9.1 N/A

## 10. **Conclusion**

- 10.1 The reasons for and benefits of the Supported Housing PFI, which includes a Mental Health component, have been confirmed and Cabinet has endorsed the PFI proposal. More detailed information in relation to both residential and supported housing cost has been provided which explains the differential between similar types of unit and identifies the potential for cost improvement. Progress has been made and work is ongoing in relation to these unit costs.

Proposals in relation to specialist Asian and/or women-only provision have been amended and it is now proposed that:

- A women-only facility be created by the reconfiguration of existing residential units
- An analysis of the Mental Health needs of Black and Asian Ethnic communities in Harrow be undertaken to inform future service provision.

- 10.2 Members are therefore asked to confirm that requests for additional information have been fully resolved and to endorse the revised recommendations and the Service Improvement Plan.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None

12. **Author**

12.1 Marilyn Vertes – tel 020 8728 6130

Community Care Development Manager

25 November 2003