

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 June
Subject:	Joint Review Report - commissioning services and support for people with learning disabilities and complex needs
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director of Adults and Housing Services
Committee Chairman:	Cllr Sheinwald
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Joint Review Report Appendix 2 Joint Review Action Plan

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the findings of the Joint Review into the commissioning of services and support for people with learning disabilities and complex needs and the action plan developed by the Council in response to those findings.

### **Recommendations:**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:

1. Note the findings of the Joint Review; and
2. Note the actions contained within the Action Plan to address the recommendations set out in the Joint Review Report

### **Reason: (For recommendation)**

To inform Councillors of the outcome of the Joint Review.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

1. Harrow was one of 10 areas selected for a pilot Joint Review of commissioning services and support for people with learning disabilities and complex needs. The aim of the review was to assess how well the council and PCT commission services and support for people with learning disabilities and complex needs. A related purpose of the review was to test out the new methodology to be used during the review to inform learning for future joint reviews.
2. The review was undertaken over a period of 5 days from 7 October 2008 to 15 October 2008. The review was undertaken by a joint team from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) and the Healthcare Commission (HC). These separate inspectorates merged to become the Care Quality Commission with effect from 1 April 2009.
3. It should be noted that the joint review followed on very quickly from a service inspection of independence, well-being and choice which focused on the Council's Learning Disability Team. Although the fieldwork was undertaken by CSCI in January 2008, the report and action plan were only agreed in May 2008. The review therefore took place during a period when we were implementing actions arising from the previous inspection.
4. The Joint Review focused on how council and PCT commissioning practices were delivering and improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities and complex needs. The experience of people who use services and carers was a primary source of evidence for the review although all review and service inspection activity relating to case file samples are acknowledged to be a way of learning about people's experiences as service users and carers and triangulating evidence. It is consistently acknowledged throughout the methodologies of the commissions, that samples are small and cannot constitute a representative or academically and statistically valid sample.
5. The Action Plan at Appendix 2 was submitted to the Joint Review team on 6 March 2009.

### **Key Findings**

6. The detailed findings are contained with the report attached as Appendix 1.
7. It should be noted that the joint review followed on very quickly from a service inspection of independence, well-being and choice which focused on the Council's Learning Disability Team. Although the fieldwork was undertaken by CSCI in January 2008, the report and action plan were only agreed in May 2008. The review therefore took

place during a period when we were implementing actions arising from the previous inspection.

8. The report recognises that *'the council, with the support of the PCT, had made a sound start in implementing the action plan, which had resulted from the January 2008 CSCI service inspection of Harrow Council. A range of new initiatives from both agencies were increasingly effective in improving services.'*

### **Financial Implications**

9. The action plan attached at Appendix 2 identifies whether actions are contained within existing resources or will require additional investment from either the PCT or Adult and Housing Services revenue budgets.

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not Applicable

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

Contact:

Mark Gillett, Divisional Director of Commissioning & Partnerships

[Mark.gillett@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.gillett@harrow.gov.uk)

020 8424 1911 or (ext 2911)

Background Papers:

Joint Review Report - commissioning services and support for people with learning disabilities and complex needs