

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**Lead Member / Officer:** Lead Member for Social Care Adult and Children's Services/ Head of Adult and Business Services

**Report Author:** Service Manager South Locality

**Title:** Mental Health Partnership

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### **1. What is the report about?**

Adult Mental Health Services are currently provided for the citizens of Denbighshire by way of the Conwy and Denbighshire Adult Mental Health Partnership. The report describes that arrangement and asks Cabinet to consider and agree to a new partnership between the Council and BCU to deliver the same range of services.

### **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The current partnership arrangement is due to end on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 and a Cabinet decision is required to enable a new partnership arrangement to be agreed.

### **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the current Conwy and Denbighshire Adult Mental Health and Social Care Partnership end on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.
- 3.2 That as an authority we remain committed to the model originally developed when creating the Partnership but that this should now be reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and BCU for the provision of these services.

### **4. Report details**

- 4.1 The Conwy and Denbighshire Adult Mental Health and Social Care Partnership (The Partnership) was established on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005 for an initial four year period and extended on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for a further four year period that expires on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.
- 4.2 The Partnership brought together the mental health services for adults provided by the then Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust, along with the social care services provided by Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council for this service user group into a single integrated organizational structure. The Partnership was hosted by health as lead agency for mental health service provision.

- 4.3 The Partnership was created and underpinned by a formal legal agreement under what was then S31 of The Health Act 1999 (later becoming a S33 agreement). Staff employed by each of the three partners were seconded into the new partnership although they continued to be employed by and governed by the terms and conditions of their original employer. We have already written to all of our staff indicating that the Partnership will end formally on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 but that this will not have any impact on the day to day operation of the service or to the conditions of their employment.
- 4.4 The Partnership Agreement provided for agreement on common policies and procedures across the service; ensured that the integrated model would fulfil all of the statutory responsibilities of the partner agencies; enhance operational links; reduce duplication and improve the coordination of services; ensured that all stakeholders participated fully in decision making in respect of the planning and development of services and reflected the recommendations and guidance pertinent at that time to this service area. A scanned copy of the original report to Cabinet in February 2005 along with a Cabinet Briefing Paper from the same time is attached as appendix 1 and 2 for information.
- 4.5 The changes resulting from the creation of BCU and the development of the Clinical Programme Group model which manages the adult mental health services across North Wales has made it increasingly difficult to manage the current partnership along side arrangements elsewhere within the CPG for mental health services in the rest of BCU's catchment area. This along with the requirement to respond to The Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 prompted a review of the current arrangements with respect to the Partnership in Denbighshire.
- 4.6 Many of the principles enshrined in the thinking that led to the creation of the partnership underpin the Measure which now sees mental health services in Denbighshire managed under a single integrated management structure which in essence is no different from the Partnership arrangement. From a Denbighshire perspective this arrangement continues to have a strong social care influence and we are fortunate that the Denbighshire County Manager is from a social care background. This potholder is responsible for the management of all of the community health and social care practitioners within the adult mental health service in Denbighshire.
- 4.7 A key principle of the work done to develop the original Partnership arrangement was the involvement of service users, their carers and the voluntary sector. While in recent months some of these arrangements have not been as robust as we would have liked them to be we along with our health partners are committed to developing the role of these groups further as the service develops.
- 4.8 The ending of the current Partnership and the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and BCU will not have any impact on service delivery. Staff will continue to be collocated alongside health

colleagues and work in an integrated way that is essential to the delivery of modern mental health services.

- 4.9 The Performance Management agenda at both a national, corporate and service specific level has grown considerably since the original partnership agreement was developed. Although these areas are referenced in the current agreement, the requirements are not specific nor are they robust in terms of requiring health as host agency to provide us with reports in a detailed and timely way. The new Memorandum of Understanding is much clearer in this regard and will require BCU to provide us with the necessary information as part of a more timely and regular process.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

This decision will support the need to ensure that vulnerable people are protected and able to live as independently as possible and also ensures that the service is delivered efficiently and effectively.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

This decision will not have any financial impact on the authority and will be delivered within the existing budget provision. It is not anticipated that it will impact on other areas of service provision.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?**

This decision does not require an EqIA as detailed in the attached template at Appendix 3 of this report.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

The proposals have been discussed with key staff involved in the Partnership and will be formally discussed with BCU at Denbighshire Health and Social Care Board on 14 June 2013. Cabinet will be advised if there any specific issues arising from the meeting.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The change of legal agreement should not raise additional financial implications but this should be kept under review. Governance arrangements should be checked to ensure that any delegated powers granted under the previous agreement are still valid going forward.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

There are no risks associated with this decision however if Cabinet were not to agree to the maintenance of the integrated model of service provision then this would have an negative impact of the quality of the service provision available in Denbighshire.

## **11. Power to make the Decision**

Not included