

Planning Ahead, Working Together

Transforming Older Peoples Mental Health Services in the South Hampshire and Southampton area

We are looking to change our care pathway so that we can deliver a service for older people with mental health needs that provides and supports:

- Early diagnosis
- Improved support in the community, introducing new or enhanced roles
- Less reliance on in-patient beds with timely admission to specialist mental health beds when required
- Improved intermediate care
- Improved support from specialised services into nursing and residential homes
- Improved end of life care

NHS Hampshire, NHS Southampton City and Hampshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have already been working together on a programme of engagement with the public and partner organisations. This has provided the local NHS with good feedback on its current services for older people with mental health needs whilst indicating priorities for these services in the future.

This work has been in response to several national policies which have provided guidance and direction for services for older people with mental health needs.

These policies have translated locally into the Hampshire Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older Peoples Mental Health Services (2008) and the Southampton Joint Dementia Commissioning Strategy (2009-2012).

Whilst a significant amount of work has taken place we know that our current community services do not achieve the aims of the above policies. We also know from our engagement work to date of some key areas that we can develop. These include:

- Improved information and support for patients and carers
- Improved joint working across partner organisations
- Enhanced services that provide improved access and more community based support with less reliance on in-patient beds

We are now seeking feedback to the proposed care pathway along with views on how services for older people with mental health needs could be further improved.