

Mental Health Service Update

Introduction



Many of you will be aware that significant work has progressed over the past five years to review mental health services in the Western Isles, with the aim to develop options for future services which better meet the needs of the population.

Considerable information was gathered as part of the Clinical Strategy consultation process between 2007 and 2009, when we

visited local areas across the Western Isles to discuss the views of different communities, and discussed key areas with our staff, service users and other partners. We also involved members of the public, service users and NHS staff in a project to scope mental health services for older adults through Proiseact a' Chliseim.

An external review of mental health services has also been undertaken by Dr Linda Watt, Medical Director of Mental Health Partnerships, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, which focused on the key areas raised during previous consultation events; specifically shifting the 'balance of care' from a predominantly hospital-based mental health model to a more community-focused model, where more clients are managed outside the hospital setting.

Where are we now?

The modernisation of mental health services is one of the Health Board's key priorities for 2011/12. An overarching group (the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Integrated Planning Group) was set up to progress this work.

A commitment has been given by the Project Lead (the Medical Director) to report to Western Isles Health Board with a range of options for future models of service in August 2011. To ensure all interested parties have had the opportunity to contribute to this process, an update paper has been widely circulated to a number of groups (including key staff and Board advisory committees, Locality Planning Groups, the People's Health

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Network, and the Mental Health Partnership), which provides an overview of work to date and poses key questions for consideration.

Work has been taking place over recent months to gather together key data and feedback from consultation processes to develop options to present to the Health Board in August 2011.

Next Steps

Western Isles Health Board will consider the report with potential options for mental health services in the Western Isles this August.

It is expected that at this stage the Board will approve a direction of travel that both maintains acute service provision and seeks to strengthen community based mental health services. It is also important that local mental health service provision is enhanced in order to reduce the need for patients to travel off island for care. A key component of any developments will be to work in partnership with our local authority colleagues and voluntary organisations and these key stakeholders are represented on the Integrated Planning Group.

Following any decision, there is a commitment to an ongoing process of communication and engagement.

Thank You!

At this stage, we would like to thank everyone who has attended a consultation event, has shared their views, or has commented on information materials. Your views are vitally important to ensure that services are shaped in response to the needs of the local population.

For Further Information

If you would like further information, or would like to share your views on the redesign of mental health services, please contact:

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