

Response to question Adult Services OSC Meeting

Question relating to the Embleton Day Unit (1,2,3 5, 8,9)

Background

EDU based in Buckingham is a day service for older people with mental health difficulties. Historically the service has had the capacity to provide for 30 people per week. (2 days/week for organic illness, 1 day/week for functional (total of 90 person/days per week). The EDU is provided by Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and referrals to the service have been made by multi-disciplinary teams (health and social care as a formal partnership agreement is in place between BCC and BMHT). As at 23 September 2005, 13 people use EDU (7 with organic illness, 6 with functional). This means that the unit has been operating at less than 50% of its expected occupancy levels.

Rationale to proposed changes to the EDU.

A multi-agency project group was established which included representation from Older People Commissioning BCC and PPIF, Service Users, Carers and voluntary sector representation during 2004. The role of this group was to explore the future options for EDU in a way that maximised the benefits of partnership working between health and social care. All decisions about the future of EDU were made with the full involvement of the members of the working group. Following consideration of the options by the group the new preferred model of day care provision received support from the project group tasked with considering was future of the unit as set out as the preferred option in 'Putting People First – Public Consultation'

The need to consider the future of EDU was based upon a number of different factors, which are set out below:-

- The outcome of individuals assessment indicated that the services has been providing hospital day care (currently provided by BMHT) to people who should be receiving social care provision.
- Historically there has been low demand for the service with approximately five to six new referrals per year as well as the low occupancy levels set out above.
- The building is no longer fit for purpose in terms of being able to house the day service. An environmental assessment of the unit is currently being under taken.
- There has been a reduction in the funding from the league of Friends, which has necessitated the need to look at the longer-term financial sustainability of the service.
- Given the needs profile of people who have used the services there are issues around how the costs should be apportioned between the agencies.

Model for the future

As set out above the EDU has historically provided for 30 people, 2 days/ week for organic illness, 1 day/week for functional (total of 90 person days per week). The proposed model is to offer an alternative service for 30 people at the Red Cross in Buckingham 4 days pw (120 person days) and 16 at Age Concern in Steeple Claydon 1 day a week, ie 136 person day an increase of over 50% based upon the current arrangements. The benefits of the new model are that it will offer greater choice for service users in terms of having access to two providers in two different locations. Greater flexibility in terms of the days and experienced voluntary providers with social care expertise in this area with the benefits of health in services provided by BMHT where this is required. Places are available in the Red Cross (all days) and Age Concern.

Buckinghamshire County Council Older People Commissioning Team have been fully involved in the Project Group to ensure that the right capacity is available through a formal agreement. This agreement will be subject to review and has the flexibility to increase or decrease based on the levels of demand for the service. The new services will not have a defined catchment area. Like other services across Buckinghamshire it is pragmatically likely to be accessed by people that live in the Aylesbury Vale area who are referred by their local Older People Community Mental Health Services.

Position with current Service Users in relation to EDU

- 4 are attending for assessment
- 3 already attend the proposed centre already
- 1 plans to cease day care at EDU
- 2 are waiting for a permanent residential care placement and will not require EDU in the future
- 1 is in hospital and unlikely to return home

Any changes to individual needs and the services that people receive will be subject to a Care Planning Meeting under the Care Programme Approach to consider jointly and in discussion with the service user and carer's agree new arrangements around the services received. During the transition arrangements will be planned BMHT and BCC continue to work the Red Cross and Age Concern. Once a decision has been made around the future arrangements these voluntary organizations will support the transition planning around the existing EDU users who may wish to use the new model of service in the future