



Buckinghamshire County Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Health

Chairman - Mike Appleyard

Vice Chairman – Pauline Wilkinson MBE

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Ref MA/am
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Dear Julie,

Healthcare Commission

Core Standards Assessment Annual Health Check 2006/2007

The Buckinghamshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Public Health (PHOSC) is pleased to offer comments on the performance of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Trust within the above process. Due to the nature of the work undertaken by the PHOSC during the past year there are only a small number of standards where it is appropriate to make a commentary. Comments are based to a large extent on the evidence gathered from the committee's Review into the management of Eating Disorders and focus specifically upon the delivery of services in Buckinghamshire. Future work will ensure that the core standards are taken into account where appropriate.

The following comments are now offered:

Second Domain – Clinical and Cost Effectiveness

Standard C6 Healthcare Organisations cooperate with each other and social care to ensure that patient's individual needs are properly managed and met

The Review into the Management of Eating Disorders highlighted the importance of multi agency working to ensure patient's needs are properly managed. The report emphasises the importance of partnership working specifically between CAMHS, the PCT, schools and the voluntary sector to encourage early identification but it was noted that whilst there is engagement at some levels, this is not always evident to users of services and a clear care pathway is not communicated effectively. The lack of communication between services themselves, for example GPs and CAMHS, and between services and members of the public, means that parents and carers are often unclear how to access support for their child.

Developmental standard

D2 a) Patients receive effective treatment and care that conform to nationally agreed best practice, particularly as defined in National Service Frameworks, NICE guidance, national plans and national guidance on service delivery

During the Review into the Management of Eating Disorders the committee noted that the CAMHS managers were very clear about the NICE guidelines for the treatment of bulimia and anorexia and was content that steps were being taken to implement them.

Fourth Domain - Patient Focus

C16 Healthcare organisations make information available to patients and the public on their services, provide patients with suitable and accessible information on the care and treatment they receive and, where appropriate inform patients on what to expect during treatment care and after care.

Based on evidence gathered during the review of eating disorders in the Aylesbury Vale area the committee were encouraged that this standard was met in specific localities. Evidence showed that once patients had been diagnosed and were receiving treatment the outpatient clinics provided an intensive package of care, individual help and family support.

Fifth Domain – Accessible and Responsive Care

Standard C17 The views of patients, their carers and others are sought and taken into account in designing, planning, delivering and improving healthcare services.

The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership Trust has demonstrated good patient and public involvement in consultation. (Review of Psychological Therapies) although the PHOSC would advocate earlier engagement with scrutiny and the PPIFs in this process. The OSC welcomes the recent moves by the Trust towards more openness and regular meetings to share information and participate in planning as there has been a concern around the unsatisfactory length of response times to previous consultations which the OSC has raised with the trust. (Mental Health of Primary school children). The recent recruitment by the trust of a PPI officer is welcomed and seen as a positive move to build closer links with the public service users and carers.

Standard C18 Healthcare Organisations enable all members of the population to access services equally and offer choice in access to services and treatment equitably.

The review into the management of Eating Disorders revealed the CAMHS services across Buckinghamshire had developed unevenly and this had resulted in different provision in different areas. This was further reflected in the CAMHS district audits for Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe and endorsed by trust management when interviewed. The PHOSC was however pleased to learn that the trust has identified special interest clinicians who will receive referrals from any part of the county to enable more equitable access to the same service and a more consistent approach.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Appleyard

Chairman - Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Public Health
cc Pauline Wilkinson Vice Chairman

Angela Macpherson Policy Officer