

SUPPORT TO CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Briefing for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Introduction

Mental Health Services for Older People (MHSOP) have identified an opportunity to work collaboratively with local care homes who provide services for older people with mental health problems, dementia in particular. Our Community Mental Health Teams comprise NHS & Social Care staff, who work closely together to assess, treat and care for vulnerable older people.

A new post has been developed entitled Community Outreach Clinician. The post holder will work in a multi-disciplinary Community Mental Health Team as an Outreach Clinician for clients with mental health problems in independent and statutory sector residential/nursing care homes. Acting as a dedicated new resource, they will provide specialist mental health advice, treatment and teaching/education as appropriate. The aim is to increase the capacity, confidence and willingness of those organisations to provide the appropriate level of care to this vulnerable client group and also to promote admission avoidance and facilitate earlier discharge. The worker will also undertake Continuing Health Care and NHS funded nursing care assessments and reviews. We are pleased to announce that an appointment has been made and the post holder is in place following an induction and orientation to the new role.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A steering group has been established to develop some outcomes and evaluation framework for this post. It is hoped that two of the main outcomes will be:

- A reduction in admission/readmission rates to hospital both to Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust beds and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust beds
- An increase in the quality of care offered to this very vulnerable client group

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