

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 20TH FEBRUARY, 2017

REFERENCE FROM HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 16TH JANUARY, 2017

“681 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (DSS) –

The Head of Adult Services introduced the report that provided an overview of how mental health services in the Vale operated. For this item, the Head of Adult Services was joined by the Social Care Lead for Mental Health.

In summarising the report, the Head of Adult Services referred to the additional work being undertaken by community support workers around meeting the healthy living lifestyle needs of adults with a mental health issue. The Head of Adult Services also outlined the challenges as a result of the condition and suitability of the Amy Evans building which accommodates the Central Vale Community Mental Health Team. He also highlighted the impact on community resources as a result of legislative changes which was increasing demand. In addition, he referred to joint management arrangements for the social work element of community mental health teams and the joint post with Cardiff Council. It had been identified that there had been clear benefits but also some problems which meant that this arrangements would be brought to an end at least in the medium term. Therefore, there was a proposal to create an operational post for mental health and learning disability services with sole responsibility for the Vale of Glamorgan.

In respect of the condition of the Amy Evans building, a Committee Member queried the specific issues. The Social Care Lead for Mental Health stated that some remedial work was being progressed, such as repairs to the roof, but there were also issues such as the need for new toilet facilities, windows and confidential meeting rooms. The Committee agreed that the report should be referred to Cabinet to highlight the concerns of the Committee around the condition and suitability of the Amy Evans building.

The Chairman, referring to a previous report provided to the Committee which outlined that one of the three Community Mental Health Teams was under significantly more pressure than the other two, queried whether plans were being progressed to improve this. In reply, the Head of Adult Services stated that this was the main purpose of the review of the community mental health services being undertaken, but this needed to be progressed in a quicker timeframe. The Plan was to reorganise the working arrangements of the three teams in order to meet the level of demand.

A Committee Member stated that the report indicated that the level of people who would experience mental health issues would be in their thousands and he queried how this related to the current referral rate, which was around 120 each month. In

reply, the Head of Adult Services stated that primary health services would receive the majority of referrals which would be handled by General Practitioners. The Community Mental Health Teams would only deal with the more serious and complex mental health cases.

In outlining the referral process, the Social Care Lead for Mental Health advised the Committee that the majority of referrals would come through a General Practitioner, although all Agencies would be able to make a referral and individuals could also make self-referrals. When a referral was received, this would go through a screening process to ensure that it met National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines. If accepted, referrals would be allocated on the basis of need and two professionals would then be assigned in order to carry out an assessment.

A Committee Member queried the impact of library closures, which could possibly increase the number of people with mental health problems who were socially isolated. In reply, the Social Care Lead for Mental Health explained that the issue of patients becoming isolated was a growing problem and the Third Sector was being invited to undertake more preventative work.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet to highlight the Committee's grave concern regarding the condition and unsuitability of the Amy Evans building, which was clearly not fit for purpose.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To inform the Scrutiny Committee of developments in Community Mental Health Services in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (2) In order to outline the Committee's concerns regarding the condition and suitability of the Amy Evans building."

Attached as Appendix - [Report to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee - 16th January, 2017](#)