

TITLE OF REPORT: **Deciding Together Consultation**

REPORT OF: **Allison Elliott, Strategic Director Care, Health and Wellbeing**

Summary

This report seeks to update the Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the current position regarding the Committee's involvement in the formal consultation in relation to the deciding together process – transforming specialist mental health services in Gateshead and Newcastle.

Background

1. Since July 2014, NHS NewcastleGateshead Clinical Commissioning Group Alliance has engaged with, the public, service users, carers, NHS and social care professionals, the voluntary and community sector, elected members and members of parliament about how a new vision for specialist mental health services in Newcastle and Gateshead could be developed.
2. From November 2014 to January 2015 the CCG led a high profile listening period to capture patient experience, questions, comments, ideas, concerns and suggestions from local communities of interest. The listening exercise was called "Deciding Together: Developing a new vision for mental health services – listening to and collecting your views on specialist mental health services and care." The listening exercise was used to inform the scenarios for change which are now the subject of a formal public NHS consultation process by NHS Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group Alliance which commenced on 12 November 2015 and which is due to end on 12 February 2016.
3. During the above period, this Committee has received a number of updates from the CCG regarding the progress of the listening exercise and the Committee has been provided with the opportunity to shape that exercise / has fed in specific evidence around transport issues for Gateshead residents if future options were to involve acute inpatient mental health services being provided outside of Gateshead.

Update

4. The formal Deciding Together consultation proposals are attached at Appendices 1-3 and represent a potential major change to service provision for Gateshead residents dependent upon the option taken forward.
5. Where proposals represent a potential major change to service provision Overview and Scrutiny has a statutory role in considering whether it has been appropriately consulted and whether any proposed developments are in the best interests of the health service in their area.

6. Regulations also specify that where a relevant NHS body or health service provider consults more than one local authority's health scrutiny function about proposals for major service changes there is a requirement for a mandatory joint health scrutiny committee to consider and respond to the consultation.
7. As the CCG is also consulting Newcastle Health OSC on the proposals as they also represent a potential major service change for Newcastle residents, a Joint meeting between Gateshead's Care, Health and Wellbeing OSC and Newcastle's Health OSC has been arranged for Tuesday 26 January 2016 to facilitate joint consideration of the proposals / joint response in line with the Regulations.
8. Chris Piercy, NewcastleGateshead CCG Alliance will attend today's OSC meeting to provide the OSC with an overview of the options for future service provision outlined in the Deciding Together documents and provide the OSC with initial findings from the independent travel impact survey commissioned to consider the impact of all the options for future service provision. This will enable the OSC to have an initial discussion around the consultation proposals / findings from the survey prior to giving a formal response at the Joint Health OSC meeting on 26 January 2016.

Recommendations

3. The Committee is asked to
 - a) Provide initial comments on the options set out in the Deciding Together consultation and the initial findings from the independent travel impact survey.
 - b) Note that the formal response in relation to the Deciding Together consultation proposals will be made via the Joint Gateshead / Newcastle OSC at the meeting scheduled for 26 January 2016.