
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

9 September 2020

New operating model for the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) service – Key Decision Preview

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The Council has a statutory duty to have an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) service with sufficient officers (AMHPs) to operate on a 24-hour, 7 day a week basis and meet demand.

A review of the AMHP Service in 2019 found significant problems and risks within the service, including issues in regulatory compliance and standards of practice. This was recorded in the County Council's Corporate Risk Register for priority action and was noted at a meeting of the Regulation Audit and Accounts Committee. An interim solution was put in place which is now proposed for full implementation.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to consider the proposed operating model for the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) service prior to decision by the Executive Director for Adults and Health (report at Appendix 1) in September 2020.

The Council's Risk Register records the inadequacy of the service and resource as a risk that the Council will not be able to carry out its statutory role under the Mental Health Act 1983 due to being unable to meet the demand for mental health assessments. The risk is rated as 4 out of 5 for likelihood and impact.

With this in mind key areas for scrutiny include:

- (1) Whether the model proposed addresses the service issues highlighted in the report (detail in the table at 2.7 of the report).
- (2) Whether the proposal can meet the local and national workforce challenges including those in the feedback from staff (section 3.1 of the report).
- (3) Whether the mitigating actions to identified risks as set out in section 6 of the report are sufficient.
- (4) Whether the proposal gives sufficient assurance that the Council will provide a legally compliant service able to meet demand into the future

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached reports (listed below), including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Officer Key Decision Report - New operating model for the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) service

Background papers

None