

SOUTHEND, ESSEX & THURROCK (SET) TRANSFORMING CARE PARTNERSHIP

Improving care in Essex for people
with a learning disability and/or autism

The **Transforming Care Partnership** is an Essex-wide programme which has brought together all of the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups across the County and the three top-tier local authorities (Essex, Southend and Thurrock). It leads locally on the national Transforming Care programme that will lead to improvements in specialist care for people with a learning disability and/or Autism who may suffer or have suffered serious mental health problems or can sometimes behave in a way that can place themselves and or others at risk (of harm or of ending up in the criminal justice system). The purpose of this letter is to introduce the programme, to provide information on our ambitions for the work and make you aware of how you can contact or track the progress of the programme.

An ambition of the programme is to ensure all social care, health and voluntary agencies work more closely together – and critically, more closely and in a more personalised way with service users, their families and their carers. As a partnership we are therefore going to produce a quarterly newsletter to be shared with all stakeholders, and the first will be published by April. The information you will find in these newsletters may be fairly broad, but will provide a good idea of how the project is progressing and how you can get involved if you would like to make any contribution or comments. More than anything else, we want to ensure people who are interested or affected by this project know what is going on and are able to get the information they need.

What is Transforming Care?

Over the past few decades we have, across the UK, significantly reduced our reliance on institutional care to support people with a learning disability and/or autism. But we haven't done enough. Some people who could, given the right support, be at home and close to their loved ones are still sometimes looked after in inpatient units or hospitals and sometimes very distant from home. Over the past few years many hundreds of people have been supported to leave hospital, only for others to be admitted in their place. Nationally and locally, we have not made enough progress when it comes to changing some of the fundamentals of care and support for these vulnerable individuals.

And this is what Transforming Care is all about. NHS England, the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services are jointly sponsoring the programme nationally. Through the work, we aim to make some significant changes to the care culture for people with a learning disability and/or autism. It is about a shift in power to individuals and a change in the way services are delivered; both necessary to deliver better outcomes.

One of the over-arching ambitions is to close all but essential hospital inpatient provision. The approach is about building the right community-based health and care services to support people with a learning disability and/or autism lead active lives in the community and live in their own homes, just as their non-disabled peers and other citizens expect to.

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Transforming Care Partnership

Services in Essex are currently commissioned and delivered by a range of different organisations. This includes Essex County Council, the two unitary authorities (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council) and all seven of the county's NHS clinical commissioning groups. These 10 organisations are accountable and responsible for the local care system and have come together to form the SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) Transforming Care Partnership. Whilst we believe locally that we have made great strides in the last few years, we believe that there is more that we can do. At this stage there are no plans to change where and how decisions are made across the Partnership; decisions will continue to be made by the stand-alone statutory care and health bodies. The role of the Partnership is to define the sorts of changes / opportunities to drive these changes across the system locally; these decisions will be taken formally by each of the separate organisations. Our key aims, as a partnership, are as follows:

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Reduce reliance on inpatient settings

- We will reduce the number of children and adults in an inpatient setting by 30% between January 2017 and April 2019
- We will shift funding so there is more investment into community health and care services, to better support people in the community, keep them safe and avoid new admissions or re-admissions into inpatient settings
- We will proactively target resources for the people at greatest risk of requiring inpatient treatment, to prevent their needs escalating.

Improve the quality of life for people in inpatient and community settings

- We will reduce the number of people with autism and/or Learning Disability engaging with the Criminal Justice System
- We will increase the number of people who can be discharged to a secure tenancy to give greater security of tenure for their future
- We will help improve access to services locally for people
- We will increase the availability and take-up of personal budgets, giving people greater control over the services they receive and how those services are delivered.

Improve the quality of care for people in inpatient and community settings

- We will improve the knowledge and skills of staff in Mental Health services, mainstream acute hospitals and social care providers so they can better understand and work with people with complex autism and/or learning disabilities
- In line with the national service model, we will deliver a shift to multi-disciplinary health and care teams who can work to a single plan to support people at risk or already displaying complex behaviour and/or a mental health condition that risks the requirement of inpatient assessment
- We will ensure all services will work to a single person-centred plan to deliver the right support at the right time.

Next steps

In mobilising the work to date, we believe we have made good progress and have received positive feedback from NHS England who will be periodically assessing the progress of the programme. Through the quarterly partnership newsletter we will provide updates on these progress checks, provide updates against any specific decisions or proposals and provide a schedule of communications and events in which you may be interested.

More information and a number of national documents are available online at

<http://castlepointandrochfordccg.nhs.uk/your-services/essex-transforming-care-partnership>.

Following the first newsletter we will also include a contact form on the website should you wish to engage directly with the programme.

I hope you have found the contents of this letter helpful and interesting, and I looking forward to sharing more information with you as the project progresses.

Kind regards



Simon Leftley

Chair, Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Transforming Care Partnership