

Update for Partnership colleagues

From Professor Mike Thorne CBE, Independent Chair

February 2020

Mental Health plans given a boost

One in five people in our area is estimated to be experiencing mental health problems and the evidence shows this number is growing. The Partnership has agreed a delivery plan to ensure we bring the transformation needed in our mental health provision to meet the commitments set out in the Long Term Plan. Particularly welcome is the additional funding we have received to set up "sanctuary spaces" in Thurrock, Southend and Chelmsford for people when they feel their mental health problems are escalating and to help them avert crisis.

Leading the way in quality improvement

Our pilot quality improvement and leadership programme has come to end with our first multi-organisation cohort presenting their projects to system leaders. The lucky 13 have benefitted from development through learning QI tools, leadership techniques and coaching as part of the scheme which encouraged them to tackle challenges across traditional boundaries. Projects focussed were staff retention, improved access to digital patient information and mental health support for younger people. Delivered by internal experts from our partner organisations, we now hope to extend the programme to a further cohort in the coming months.

Ageing Well in Mid and South Essex

We have appointed Gerdalize Du toit as programme director for our Ageing Well programme. A physiotherapist by background Gerdalize has been seconded from Provide for 13 months. She will ensure we deliver on the Ageing Well priorities both national and our local outcomes from the summit taking place on March 10, 2020 which aims to set out the full scope of the programme.

Financial partnership

As a key enabler to delivering our plans and priorities, we have established a System Finance Leaders Group. Lead by Dawn Scrafield, chief finance officer from the hospital's group, it brings together representation from across our member organisations to support us to effectively and collaboratively make the best use of our resources and secure additional investment wherever possible.

Leadership update

At the conclusion of our initial recruitment process in January we did not appoint to the single role of Joint Accountable Officer for the five Mid and South Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups and executive lead for the Health and Care Partnership. We will therefore re-commence the recruitment process in the near future. In the meantime we have appointed Anthony McKeever as interim. Subject to the completion of formal sign-off processes by Sir Simon Stevens, we hope Anthony will be able to start towards the end of February.

And finally

If you would like any more information on the areas covered in this brief please email btu-tr.midsouthessexstp@nhs.net.

Further information about our work in partnership can be found on our website at www.msehealthandcarepartnership.co.uk