

## Changing Mental Health Services bought by the Pooled Fund: Summary Consultation Paper

Period for your comments: 15 February to 18 May 2008



### 1. What is the Pooled Fund?

Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and Great Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust have put their money together in a Pooled Fund to buy services for people with mental health problems. There is £4.1 million in the Fund and half of this is spent on Supported Housing; the other half is spent on community support services such as Advocacy, Day services and services for Family Carers. The contracts that the Fund has with providers of community support services will end on 31 March 2009. Under European Law we have to arrange new contracts and invite service providers to bid to run them. This process will NOT apply to providers of Supported Housing. The new contracts will ask service providers to deliver some services differently in the future. We have put our proposals together in a full report, "**Promoting Individual Choice – Changing the Commissioning of Mental Health Services from the Pooled Fund.**" Because some of the services will change we are asking people to give us their views and we explain how you can do this at the end of this paper.

### 2. What are Pooled Fund services and who uses them?

The following community services are provided by the Pooled Fund at the moment:

- **Advocacy** services for people with mental health problems are available across Suffolk. £269,000 is spent on this service which was used by 262 people in the last year.

- **Community Support services** visit people in their own homes to help them re-gain their independence. 311 people received this service in the last year and £564,000 was spent on it. This service is available throughout Suffolk and is provided for people with severe mental health problems.
- **Day services** usually involve people attending a day centre where a range of services are offered. 833 people used day services in the last year and £735,000 is spent on them. The services are open to all people with mental health problems, but the majority of people who attend have more severe problems. Day services are available in most parts of Suffolk although people living in some rural parts of north Suffolk may have a long journey to attend a service.
- **Employment services** provide opportunities for learning skills that will help people get back to work or find a job. £281,000 is spent on the service and 516 people used it in the last year. The services are available across Suffolk and are currently only available to people with severe mental health problems.
- **Family Carer** services offer specialist support to the carers of people with mental health problems. They are available throughout Suffolk, cost £217,000 and 434 family carers used them in the last year.
- **Mental Health Information and Advice** services are based in west Suffolk at present, with no specialist service in other parts of the county. In the last year they cost £48,000 and 2,675 people used them.

### 3. What we aim to achieve?

The Council and the Primary Care Trust's have explained their aims for mental health services in Suffolk in a number of papers (copies of these papers are available from the web sites and postal address at the end of this paper). The main aims for Pooled Fund services are to:

- Provide earlier help for people with mild to moderate mental health problems who are being treated by their own GP.
- Continue to provide services for people with severe mental health problems.
- Make sure that contracts for services are clear about the benefits that users will experience.
- Make sure that services fit with the overall aims for mental health services across Suffolk.

- Change the way we pay some Pooled Fund service providers to free up money for people to purchase their own care services.
- Make services available to people no matter where they live in Suffolk.

#### **4. Key issues that we want your views on.**

The Council and the Primary Care Trusts are proposing the following key changes that we want to hear your views on:

- a. We aim to set aside some of the money we pay to providers and use it to let people with mental health problems buy their own care services. The government is introducing Individual Budgets this year and this means that more people will be able to arrange and buy their own care services. The Pooled Fund services that may have money set are Day Services, Community Support and Employment.
- b. We plan to change the type of day services that we buy in future. We want to move away from services that are based in buildings that are not part of the local community. Government guidance says that we must move to day services which are based around a person's individual needs. We should help provide access to employment, leisure and education and support people to take part in mainstream community activities. We know that people can be concerned about changes to their day services and we will be managing any changes with great care, for example we recognise that we will need to allow plenty of time for these changes to be made.
- c. We want to make sure that some current gaps in the availability of services across Suffolk are filled.
- d. We aim to provide specialist mental health Information and Advice through the Suffolk Library service and through providers of other Pooled Fund services. This will greatly increase the number of places where people can get mental health advice.
- e. Some Pooled Fund services will continue to be available only to people with severe mental health problems, e.g. Community Support Work. However, we aim to open up some services to people who are being treated by their GP for mild to moderate problems. Whilst we want to open up some services, new contracts will be written and reviewed in a way that makes sure that people with severe problems can continue to use services.
- f. We aim to offer employment services to people with mild to moderate mental health problems as long as they have complex

needs in relation to either getting a job or going back to their existing job.

## 5. Dates for these proposed changes.

The current timescale that we are working to is as follows:

### 2008

February	-	Consultation begins
May	-	Consultation closes
May	-	Report to County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on findings of Consultation
June	-	Advertisements inviting tenders for new contracts
Mid-July	-	Closing date for tenders
August/September	-	Tender evaluation panels meet
October	-	New contracts awarded
Oct – March 2009	-	Time to plan new services

### 2009

April	-	New services start
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## 6. Sources of further information.

The full consultation paper and "Having your Say Questionnaire" can be accessed by following the Mental Health Pooled Fund Consultation links from the following websites:

- Suffolk County Council – [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)
- Suffolk PCT – [www.suffolkpct.nhs.uk](http://www.suffolkpct.nhs.uk)
- Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT – [www.gywpct.nhs.uk](http://www.gywpct.nhs.uk)

The Mental Health Consultation web page also has links to local and national policies and procedures that give background to the consultation.

## 7. Sending us your views.

We want to hear the views of service users, family carers, voluntary sector service providers, public agencies and the general public. We are holding a series of meetings across Suffolk to hear directly from the people and these will be listed on the websites above. You can also talk/give your views to the mental health service user org in Suffolk – Suffolk User Forum – on 01473 329316 or email [suf@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:suf@smhp.nhs.uk).

You can send completed questionnaires, written comments or requests for further information by post to the following address:

**Mental Health Pooled Fund Consultation**  
**FREEPOST NAT 18364**  
**Ipswich**  
**IP1 2BR**

Alternatively, you can complete and submit the questionnaire on-line from the web page or use the email address below for any other queries, comments or concerns: [mentalhealthconsultation@suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:mentalhealthconsultation@suffolkcc.gov.uk)

## **8. Outcome of Consultation**

The consultation closes on the 18 May 2008. A summary report of the outcome will be available on the Mental Health Pooled Fund Consultation website from July 2008.

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call the number below.

إذا تحتاج إلى مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات في أي لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال على الرقم التالي.

**Arabic**

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন

**Bengali**

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。

**Chinese**

જો તમારે આ માહિતી બીજી ભાષામાં સમજવા માટે જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરી નીચેના નંબર પર સંપર્ક કરો.

**Gujarati**

بەم زانیاریەشیشتنی یە بێ تێگەشتی دە یارمەر پێویستی ت بەگەئە  
بکە. وە ی خوارەم ژمارەندی بەیو بەزمان کێ تر تکایە

**Kurdish**

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.

**Polish**

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.

**Portuguese**

If you would like this information in another format, including audio tape or large print, please call **08456 066 067**.