

**SUBJECT: ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD – REDESIGNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE – DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

**MEETING: COUNCIL**

**DATE: 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.0 To present a draft Monmouthshire County Council response to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) consultation *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People* for approval and submission to ABUHB to meet the deadline for consultation responses which is 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Council endorse the attached draft consultation response (Appendix A) for submission to ABUHB.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 ABUHB approved recommendations at its Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to enter into formal public consultation a preferred option for the redesign of older adult mental health services.
- 3.2 The public consultation process was agreed between ABUHB and the Community Health Council to run between November 2017 and January 2018.
- 3.3 The ABUHB consultation document is included as Appendix B to this paper. The consultation sets out a vision for older adult mental health services and describes the challenges faced by the Health Board in recruiting a registered mental health nursing workforce to safely provide quality inpatient services. The consultation advises of urgent changes to services that were made in January 2016 to ensure that safe services could be provided. The consultation then sets out and appraises a number of options for future service provision. There is a preferred option described in the paper, to consolidate the number of older adult mental health wards, to 3 dementia wards and 1 functional mental health ward. This option would mean that dementia inpatient services would no longer be provided from St Pierre Services at Chepstow Community Hospital. This would mean that people from Monmouthshire requiring this service would access either St Woolos Hospital or Ysbyty Tri Chwm Hospital in Ebbw Vale.
- 3.4 Monmouthshire County Council Members have actively engaged in the ABUHB consultation process. In addition to an all Member seminar, there have a number of public engagement meetings well attended by Councilors. At the all Member seminar, and in public meetings, a number of concerns have been raised regarding the consultation proposals, the lack of consideration in the options appraisal to Monmouthshire's demographics – current and projected- and prevalence of mental ill health. Concerns have also been consistently raised

regarding transport and access issues, the impact on carers, lack of detail around investment in enhanced community services and the impact of service withdrawal on the viability of Chepstow Community Hospital. These concerns mean the consultation response is not supportive of the preferred option. It is proposed that Council expresses a view that a more robust option appraisal is undertaken considers fully all relevant information, and puts in place a plan for quality older adult mental health services – community and inpatient- which meet the needs of current and future generations.

- 3.5 Notwithstanding the consultation response, it is important to emphasise the absolute commitment of Monmouthshire County Council to work in partnership to deliver integrated health and social care services. The commitment of the Health Board to a positive future for Chepstow Community Hospital, and the work being taken forward to plan for service provision in South Monmouthshire through the group co-chaired by the Chief Operating Officer, ABUHB and the Chief Officer, Social Care and Health, Monmouthshire County Council is welcome. To instill confidence, it needs to deliver detail of how primary and community health, social care and wellbeing services will be enhanced, making best use of the hospital and other physical assets.

#### **4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 No option appraisal is included in this report as this is a response to a ABUHB consultation which itself includes an options appraisal. The robustness of evidence used to undertake that option appraisal is questioned in this consultation response.

#### **5. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- 5.1 No evaluation criteria are included in this report as it is a response to an ABUHB consultation. The consultation response does highlight the need for clear evaluative measures understanding the impact of the change proposed.

#### **6. REASONS:**

- 6.1 The reason for this paper is to provide an effective consultation response to the ABUHB consultation on the *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People*

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 7.1 This consultation response has no direct resource implication to the Council. The response does request firm commitment from ABUHB that savings realised from the realignment of inpatient services are ringfenced for reinvestment in older adult mental health services and that the priorities for this investment should meet current and future needs.

#### **8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

- 8.1 As this is a consultation response to a change proposal from another public body no equalities impact assessment has been undertaken by Monmouthshire County Council. The consultation response expresses disappointment at the lack of availability of an impact assessment to scrutinise during the consultation process, and stresses the need for this to be central to the Board's decision on this matter.

#### **9. CONSULTEES:**

Senior Leadership Team  
Cabinet

All Member's Seminar – The views expressed in the all Member seminar form the substance of the consultation response.

Adult Select Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Having carefully scrutinised the draft response to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) consultation *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People*, Adult Select Committee firmly support Option 1 as the preferred option due to the reasons outlined below:

- Challenging transport issues in the County's rural areas will present significant problems and detriment to older people.
- The process undertaken to reach the decision on options did not sufficiently involve the County Council.
- Previous scrutiny of older person's care needs resulted in the following recommendation for a longer term model: "As a committee, we are in agreement with the principle that the Council should take a lead in providing a future long-term sustainable care model for Monmouthshire. Given the success of the Raglan Project, we understand the advantages of the Council providing care facilities to ensure a high quality service. We recognise that our primary objective remains to support people to live independently for as long as possible, but that a range of services will be needed to support future complex care needs such as dementia, given the increasing ageing population." [*Adults Select Committee: 30th October, 2017*].

As such, bearing in mind the above remarks, the Committee were strongly of the opinion that a poor decision would be made and outcomes could not be supported if the Health Board's preferred option were implemented.

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Draft Consultation Response (Appendix A)

ABUHB Consultation Document *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People*  
(Appendix B)



