

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2015 AT 10.00 a.m.**

Hertfordshire Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat

Report of the Director of Health and Community Services Hertfordshire
County Council

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1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 This report seeks to inform Health and Wellbeing Board of local action taken so far in developing a local Mental Health Crisis Care declaration and action plan, in line with national requirements set out in the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat (February 2014).

2.0 Summary

2.1 The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat has political scrutiny at a national level and local areas are required to publish their commitments and action plans for making necessary improvements across the partnership. Hertfordshire has a wide range of signatories across health, social care, community safety and the community sector.

2.2 National direction is for the Concordat to be co-terminus with local Health and Wellbeing Boards and have strong links with the remit of the local Police and Crime Commissioner; the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board in Hertfordshire are well placed to share oversight of progress and delivery of the action plans given the combined membership and priorities.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat declaration and approve the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat action plan for Hertfordshire, which will be published during March 2015 on the national website and available to the public.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The National Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat was published in February 2014 <http://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk> and is the public declaration made by a wide range of national organisations to commit to working together to improve local responses to crisis care for people with mental health problems. More than 20 national bodies involved in health, policing, social care, housing, local government and the third sector came together and signed the concordat. It focuses on four main areas: access to support before crisis point; urgent and emergency access to crisis care; quality of treatment and care when in crisis; and recovery and staying well.
- 4.2 The Department of Health required local areas to respond to the national document by signing their own declaration and making an action plan to review and improve local responses to crisis care; these are to be published on the national concordat website. A recommendation has been made within the concordat that the declaration and action plan should cover an area co-terminus with Health and Wellbeing Boards, as the actions required cover health, social care, community safety as well as countywide and district partners. Hertfordshire published their declaration on the national website on 30th November 2014; this can be viewed at www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk. The local declaration has been signed by all of the local organisations that could be involved in the care of someone in mental health crisis.
- 4.3 The local partner agencies are working together on a plan of action for Hertfordshire; the draft action plan is provided as an appendix to this report. Given the far reaching partnership and strategic approach that will be required to make the crisis care concordat a reality in Hertfordshire, a partnership approach between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership has been recommended; both Boards will act as sponsor and provide oversight to the delivery of the local declaration and action plan.
- 4.4 Local action plans are required to be published on the Concordat website by the end of March; however, Central Government is eager to have these uploaded as early as possible. The local concordat signatories are attending a meeting on 11th February to develop a final version of the action plan. The timeline at present reflects that the earliest Hertfordshire will upload this document is week commencing 9th March, following sign off at the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board.
- 4.5 Hertfordshire already has a number of projects and workstreams underway, success of which will contribute to the Concordat action plan, including:

- Hertfordshire Adults with Complex Needs Service, which seeks to identify and support people before crisis and also to support them in navigating the often complex health and social care system
 - A Hertfordshire wide review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; a joint approach across the health and social care partnership which will review current pathways and support available and ensure that future models of care and support focus on early intervention and rapid resolution of crisis
 - Section 136 Interagency meeting, which brings together all parties responsible for commissioning and providing services for people subject to Section 136 of the Mental Health Act and will ensure that pathways and responses to people in mental health crisis are robust and proportionate.
- 4.6 The action plan remains in development until its sign off on 5th March; however, there is senior representation from all organisations on the Concordat working group.
- 4.7 The Concordat reflects implications across health and social care organisations in the way they support and manage people with often complex presentations, including substance misuse; mental health conditions; chaotic lifestyles and dependence upon statutory support.
- 4.8 A common theme of particular note from workshops held with stakeholders and that access to good accommodation and support to maintain this is often key to maintaining people’s mental health. This will require a partnership with district and borough councils to ensure a good accommodation strategy for people with mental health problems
- 4.9 Although much of the current action plan is from current investment and health funded system resilience projects, it is anticipated that as the action plan develops, that additional investment into the health, social care and community safety system will be required; however, this is subject to review of the current system and outcomes of related pieces of work, including the CAMHS review and Adults with Complex Needs work.

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| Report signed off by | Iain MacBeath |
| Sponsoring HWB Member/s | Colette Wyatt-Lowe |
| Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report | Improving mental health and emotional wellbeing; reducing the harm caused by alcohol; supporting carers to care; helping all families to thrive; living well with dementia |
| Needs assessment (activity taken) | |
| Consultation/public involvement (activity taken or planned) | |
| Equality and diversity implications | |

