

Supplementary Question from Councillor Philippa Shimmin:

“What will Surrey County Council do to ensure mental health services work as a whole integrated system and in particular what can the MFT do to enable this to happen to ensure the effective services they offer benefit more people with mental health problems and provide the Surrey tax payers with the value they have already paid for?”

Joint Surrey County Council Adult Social Care and North East Hampshire CCG response:

Surrey County Council and the 6 Clinical Commissioning Groups in Surrey are fully committed to the commissioning and provision of mental health services that are integrated in their design and focused on outcomes. The 6 Clinical Commissioning Groups and Surrey County Council align our commissioning of adult mental health services in Surrey & Border Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to deliver integrated health and social care services for people with mental health problems and we jointly commission the community connection services through 5 voluntary organisations of which Mary Frances Trust is one. We are currently consulting on a joint health and social care emotional wellbeing and mental health strategy which will inform our commissioning intentions for the next 5 years in Surrey and North East Hampshire.

The Mary Frances Trust are a valued partner in this whole system approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable people with mental health problems in Surrey and they do offer a range of services in Mole Valley and Epsom and Ewell through their community connections contract. Since this contract began in April 2013 they have offered services to 253 people in these two district/ boroughs where they have the contracts.

The chief executive of Mary Frances Trust, Patrick Wolter, has been talking with commissioners about how Mary Frances Trust can promote better use of services. Some of the suggestions discussed have been to contact the patient engagement officer of Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group. Further discussions with the mental health lead in Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group on how to better engage with local general practitioners, the establishment of a newsletter with the other 4 community connections providers targeting primary care services and the development of a short video showing the value of community connection services which could be shown in general practitioners surgeries. These are all ideas that the lead providers of the community connections services are intending to pursue in the next three months in order to increase the awareness and referrals from general practitioners across the county.

These measures would increase the marketing of Mary Frances Trust services and demonstrate that the tax payers of Surrey are getting value for money from mental health services.

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