

TO: Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Board

FROM: Hazel Watson, Director of Nursing, Social Care, and Allied Health Professionals

DATE: 24th September 2007

SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT RECONFIGURATION PANEL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask the Board to formally accept the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.
- 1.2 To get Board approval of the Action Plan to implement the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's recommendations about future provision of older peoples services in Gloucestershire. Most of the recommendations apply to services that the Trust manages, but some require action from other agencies. As such, this is multi-agency plan that will also be endorsed formally by the Primary Care Trust and the Local Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Board accepts the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.
- 2.2 That the Board endorses the Action Plan and agrees the actions that require Trust leadership or involvement.

3. LINKS TO TRUST OBJECTIVES

Consolidating inpatient services for older people's mental health services is a key objective for the Trust. The proposals bring services into line with best practice, address issue of the built environment, improve clinical quality, and ensure the service can be delivered within its financial envelope.

4. STANDARDS FOR BETTER HEALTH

5 of the 7 domains in the core standards for better health will be addressed by these proposals;

- Safety
- Clinical/Cost effectiveness
- Governance
- Patient focus
- Improvements in Care environment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are significant financial implications attached to these proposals.
- 5.2 The redevelopment of Charlton Lane main hospital has an amount of £3.3m earmarked in the current capital programme. Investment will also be needed in capacity to deliver the project, such as Healthcare planning skills and Project Management for example.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The IRP were clear in their recommendations that the health and social care community needed to deliver on all of its proposals to support older people's services, not just the changes in the inpatient provision. It was clear that if the proposed inpatient service did not deliver tangible benefits, and if community services were not strengthened then the plans were not viable. Gloucestershire health and social community has committed itself through this process to making sure all those things happen. As such we will be held to account politically, and by the service users and carers to whom these services are important. It is important that the Trust delivers on the commitments it has made.

7. EQUALITY ISSUES

The proposals address current inequalities between inpatient services for adults, and those provided for older people in Gloucestershire. A Race Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the original consultation process but will be re-done as plans develop.

8. CONSULTATION

These proposals have been subject to extensive consultation. The development of the consolidated service at Charlton Lane will include consultation with stakeholders as described in the Action Plan.

9. BACKGROUND

- 9.1 As part of a lengthy consultation process about changes to the provision of services in Gloucestershire for older people with mental health problems, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee referred the issues to the Secretary of State for Health. The referral was passed on to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to consider, under Terms of Reference agreed with the Secretary of State (SoSH). The IRP process was completed and a number of recommendations were agreed with the SoSH. These recommendations were announced on 31st August 2007. The full report, the Terms of Reference, and other relevant documentation is available on the IRP website www.irpanel.org.uk
- 9.2 The IRP recommendations endorse the plans proposed by the Partnership Trust, but are clear that they have to be supported by other developments that GPT has agreed with the Primary Care Trust and the Local Authority to strengthen provision across the county. This Action Plan addresses the recommendations,

and articulates a timescale for delivery as agreed with the Primary Care Trust and the Local Authority.

10. DISCUSSION

Much work had been undertaken within the older people's services to ensure that we were in a position to respond to the recommendations as they were announced. There are now detailed plans in place to support the moves from 4 sites to 2 (the interim arrangements). Plans are also already in place to recruit additional community staff. This Action Plan addresses the rest of the service model.