

## MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

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This briefing note sets out the work currently being undertaken within the Mental Health and Learning Disability Team

### 1. Serious Adverse Incidents Review

From 1 April 2009 to 31 August 2009 there have been 58 causes reported as Serious Adverse Incidents (SAI's). The cases can be summarised as follows:

Trust	Deaths				Other	Stats		
	Suicide/Suspected Suicide	Natural Causes	Other	Not Known		Male	Female	Total No of SAI's
BHSCT	9		3	1	2	9	6	15
NHSCT	9	2			1	8	4	12
SEHSCT	11				3	9	5	14
SHSCT	9			1	2	8	4	12
WHSCT	5					1	4	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>58</b>

All reports have been responded to and the Trust have been given dates in relation to the reviews and reporting within 12 weeks.

There have been significant delays in reporting to RQIA from Trusts due in part to delays in Trusts being informed by other agencies (PSNI, GP etc). Of the 29 multidisciplinary review reports expected by 31 August 2009 only 7 have been received. The Mental Health and Learning Disability team continue to be proactive in following up all outstanding reports with trusts in accordance with the 2007 guidance. These issues will continue to form an agenda item in the ongoing meetings with Trust Directors and Senior Managers

### 2. Monitoring of errors in prescribed forms and guardianship applications

Monitoring of detention forms and guardianship applications continues.

Since 1 April 2009, the Mental Health and Learning Disability Team reviewed a total of 3908 forms.

TrustArea	Total Number of Forms Received	%Forms - Late Submissions	% Forms - Unsatisfactory
BHSCT	1123	80%	7%
NHSCT	795	51%	5%
SEHSCT	840	60%	5%
SHSCT	541	59%	4%
WHSCT	609	72%	5%
<b>Total Forms Submitted</b>	<b>3908</b>		
<b>Average Outcomes</b>		<b>66%</b>	<b>6%</b>

Trust Chief Executives continue to be kept informed of any significant failings, and these issues are also being raised during ongoing meetings with each Trust.

### 3. Meetings with Trust Directors

Initial meetings with Trust Directors have taken place in order to communicate the work of the Mental Health and Learning Disability Team. The aim is to provide updates in relation to the work of the MHLD team in relation to the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986 and key performance indicators e.g. reporting of Serious Adverse Incidents and the monitoring of prescribed forms.

Feedback from the initial meetings during the first quarter has been very positive and Trusts have recognised the improved communication and the feedback in relation to the work of the MHLD team has been welcomed.

These meetings will enable us to identify any additional issues that need to be addressed e.g. feedback from Open Surgeries, planned inspection programmes and thematic reviews.

It is anticipated that these meetings will happen on a quarterly basis to provide feedback and improve communication in relation to the work of the Mental Health and Learning Disability Team.

### 4. Mental Health Surgeries

Over the three week pilot period July/August, 40 detained patients were interviewed and asked specifically about their experience of detention and the care they receive in hospital. Mental Health Officers visited 6 units across the province, 3 acute units, 2 PICU and the regional secure unit. Liaison with advocates and Trust staff took place prior to the design of the pilot.

Patient interviews were recorded and categorised according to the DHSSPS Improving the patient and client experience standards. Some of

the issues raised included; freedom to smoke, the standard of facilities, inadequate visitor space, insufficient explanation regarding conditions of detention, quality/availability of food and lack of appropriate therapeutic activities.

Reports on each visit are currently being generated. Process issues are being reviewed to facilitate roll out to all mental health and learning disability facilities

<b>Name of Unit</b>	<b>Number of Patients Interviewed</b>
Bluestone Unit	<b>6</b>
Shannon Clinic	<b>11</b>
Tyrone and Fermanagh PICU (Spruce)	<b>4</b>
Mater Acute	<b>9</b>
Holywell PICU	<b>2</b>
Downe Acute Unit	<b>9</b>

## **5. Guardianship Panel**

The Guardianship Panel has met on 4 occasions. The Panel is chaired by a Mental Health Officer with support from 2 social work sessional officers.

There is currently a review of all Guardianship files in order to update details and ensure that they are up to date with the relevant information. This work is ongoing and will continue as new Guardianship cases are referred to the MHLD team.

## **6. Medical Panel**

The Medical Panel has met on one occasion. The main issues relate to the appointment of Part II and Part IV Doctors and in particular training requirements to ensure they are competent to practice. An updated training schedule has been identified and it is anticipated that this will be delivered in 2009/10.

It is anticipated that the Medical Panel will meet 4 times yearly. The next meeting is anticipated in October.

## **7. Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Services**

During 2009/10, the Mental Health and Learning Disability Team will undertake a clinical and social care governance review examining the care provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. A range of relevant topics for review were highlighted through engagement with HSC Trusts in advance of the transfer. This review will consider not

only the number of children and young people being admitted to adult mental health wards but will also examine CAMH services provided within the community and in the regional CAMH unit at Donard in Knockbracken Healthcare Park.

A project initiation document is being developed at present and a Project Manager has been assigned to the Review. The Project Initiation Document has been developed and it is anticipated that the Project Team will be identified in autumn 2009.

This Review will take a phased approach and may be over 3-4 years particularly regarding the tiered approach to service delivery.

## **8. Expert Advisory Panel**

As part of the transfer of functions from the Commission, it was agreed by the Project Board, that an Expert Advisory Panel would be constituted. The aim is to provide advice and guidance to the Board of the RQIA and its Senior Management Team on strategic and operational matters post transfer and on the existing and emerging mental health and learning disability legislation as it applies to the RQIA and the services it regulates.

A project plan to populate the Expert Advisory Panel had been agreed and a competency framework developed which ensures that the requirements of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 are complied with.

A project initiation document has been developed and it is anticipated that the first meeting of the panel will be early December 2009.

## **9. Meetings with Advocacy Services**

The MHLTD team has been proactive in meeting with User and Carer Advocates in relation to care and treatment of individuals with a mental illness. Meetings have also included Learning Disability and Dementia. This has been formalised in the establishment of an Advocates forum which will meet quarterly to progress ongoing issues and promote a positive working relationship.

The role of Advocates has been useful in relation to the planning and implementation of the Open Surgeries pilot and in some Trusts was instrumental in the facilitation of the arrangements during the visits e.g. organising rooms, assisting MHLTD officers and encouraging patients to participate.

## **10. Query database**

We continue to capture the learning from the range of queries which come to the MHLTD team. From April to August 2009, there were 108 queries which warranted detailed consideration and in a small number of very

complex issues legal advice from CSA. Advice has been sought from the Legal Department, CSA in relation to these issues particularly in relation to interpretation of legislation and transfer between jurisdictions. We have additional capacity in relation to the input of our Human Rights Officer in dealing with these queries particularly regarding specific human rights issues in relation to care and treatment.

Plans to develop an internal electronic Q&A system which will ensure consistency and uniformity in the responses provided by the team has been proposed. Consideration will be given to developing a FAQ section on the RQIA website.

## **11. Key Performance Indicators**

A range of key performance indicators has been developed to enable the performance of the Mental Health and Learning Disability Team to be monitored. These indicators cover the totality of team functions including the monitoring of prescribed forms, the evaluation of treatment plans, the provision of second opinions and inspection activity.

The Mental Health and Learning Disability Team has been delivering its functions as evidenced by the Key Performance Indicators.

## **12. Unannounced Inspection Programme**

During 2009/10, the unannounced inspection programme will reflect the care provided and received in a range of facilities/services and in particular within acute mental health and learning disability admission units, psychiatric intensive care units and older people assessment units.

Inspection reports will set out the findings from each individual facility/service visited. Composite and overview reports will also be produced setting out the key findings, challenges and examples of best practice within each trust and across the region. This work is ongoing.