

13th September 2016

Dear Consultee

Proposals to change mental health day opportunity and social inclusion services

Further to the letter we sent you on the 6th July 2016, we are writing to let you know about what we learned from the consultation events held across Derbyshire through July and August. This consultation period has now ended.

The consultation gave you an opportunity to hear about and comment on our proposals to make changes to mental health day opportunity and social inclusion services.

The issues and questions that you raised can be seen in the attached thematic report and we have also included answers to some of your concerns.

The proposal to offer scheduled phone support seems to have been well received by service users and we see this as an important element of the service. This will be developed within the first year of the contract and will also offer opportunities for peer supporters and volunteers to help deliver this element of the service if they wish to be involved.

There was a lot of support for service users being able to set up, run and maintain new peer support and self-help groups, and having help and support from co-ordinators to do this was seen as an important part of the service. Suggestions for a number of new activities have been made and the opportunity to join mainstream community activities seemed welcome, especially if these could be facilitated by Community Mental Health Champions.

The main concerns for people who took part in the consultation, was the fear of change and travel concerns. Some people told us that they experience high levels of anxiety which could be made worse by changes to their usual routine, such as having to travel to a new building, whether on foot or by public transport; or not having the same support worker to the one they have now, particularly where it has taken time to build up a trusting relationship over time.

We recognise that we will need to give all these issues special attention to help people to make the transition to the new service model and we will work with your current and any new providers to make sure this process is as smooth as possible for you.

We value the contribution you all made at the consultation events and by responding to the online survey and we have used your feedback to further develop the service specification for the new service(s).

Current services will remain in place until the end of March 2017. From 1st April 2017 the service may be provided by another organisation. We won't know who the new service provider will be until February 2017 but we will write to you again nearer the time to let you know the outcome of the tender process and how this might affect you.

Meanwhile, we would like to say thank you for taking part in the consultation process and giving us your valuable feedback.

Yours sincerely



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