

# **South Essex Joint Mental Health Board**

## **MEDIA RELEASE:**

14 February 2013

### **South Essex Joint Mental Health consultation launched**

Health bosses and local councils in south Essex are inviting the public and other partners to take part and share their views on a consultation on local mental health services that will launch on Friday 15 February 2013.

The South Essex Joint Mental Health Strategy, jointly produced with Essex County Council, South Essex PCT's Cluster representing Clinical Commissioning Groups, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council, sees a change in the way mental health services are delivered to adults and older people in south Essex.

A campaign to ensure everyone is given an opportunity to share their views on the proposed changes is currently on-going. Details about the consultation process which includes public meetings\* as well as consultation documents and feedback forms can be found at [www.southessex.nhs.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.southessex.nhs.uk/mentalhealth)

Presentations will be delivered at local meetings. Consultation documents and feedback forms have also been delivered to patients affected by mental health problems to ensure everyone can have their say on the plans.

At the heart of the joint strategy is the idea that adults and older people in south Essex will have improved and more targeted mental health services over the next five years. The joint strategy includes a timeline for how partners will work together and the implementation process, which will involve refining models, piloting, and reviewing the changes.

Some key outcomes of the successful delivery of the strategy will see improvements across the full range of mental health care in south Essex including:

- Helping to improve the confidence and capability of GPs and practice staff to recognise, assess, support and refer people with mental health problems
- Improve the gateway into services so people are directed to the right support at the right time
- Improve primary care and preventative mental health services so more people are supported without the need to be in secondary care.

Associate Director of Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults, Mark Tebbs, said: "Our vision is that the services we commission will support health and social care outcomes for people in south Essex and improve people's lives."

Chief Operating Officer at Castle Point and Rochford Clinical Commissioning Group, Kevin McKenny, said: "This strategy has been a joint effort. To ensure the effective delivery of this strategy there will be stable, effective and co-ordinated commissioning arrangements, which will be achieved through integrated commissioning between the four Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the three local authorities (Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock)."

Chair of the South Essex Mental Health Joint Commissioning Board, Simon Leftley, said: "We will maximise our impact by commissioning services through jointly agreed strategies and joined up delivery plans. This will be underpinned by strong leadership through the South Essex Mental Health Joint Commissioning Board, which will be accountable to the three Health and Well-Being Boards; Health Executive boards and Local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups."

**-ENDS-**

Editor's notes:

- The public consultation will run from **15<sup>th</sup> February until 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013**
- **This strategy has been developed in partnership with (and is led by) major mental health stakeholders in South Essex:** NHS South Essex, The Four South Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); Essex County Council; Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council.
- **The South Essex Joint Mental Health Board** is made up of all stakeholders listed above. They currently work together to maximise health and social care resources available for mental health. Their goal is to reduce the impact of mental illness on the people of South Essex.
- A list of public meetings organised (to date) will be available to view (from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February) on NHS South Essex website at [www.southessex.nhs.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.southessex.nhs.uk/mentalhealth)
- The full consultation document for the public to download and provide their feedback on-line can be accessed (**from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**) at [www.southessex.nhs.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.southessex.nhs.uk/mentalhealth)

**What are the consultation questions?**

1. Do you support the focus on improving the knowledge, skills and confidence of primary care practitioners such as GP's and practice nurses?
2. Do you support the development of one gateway (entrance) into mental health services?
3. Do you support the need for an expanded primary care mental health team (IAPT plus)?
4. Do you support the need to deliver care in the least restrictive way, reducing the need for hospital beds and residential care?
5. Do you support a crisis service designed to offer quick response, prevent admissions and support Reablement?
6. Do you have any alternative suggestions or views to improve the Joint Mental Health Strategy?

- NHS South Essex is a cluster of South East Essex PCT and South West Essex PCT.
- For more information, call the communications team at NHS South Essex on 01268 705096 or email [communications@swessex.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@swessex.nhs.uk)