

County Mental Health Action Group Meeting on 12th October, 2016

Locality Questions

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Ashford	Concern over social care and public health reduction. Social care and public health spend in Ashford is now £238,249.00 following a funding cut of £192K which represents a 45% reduction. Response from Sue Scamell: The day service model changed and the money was re-profiled against deprivation and mental health needs which saw a reduction for SWK and Ashford areas.
Canterbury	Raise again lack of staffing with CMHT and concern over high caseloads. Angus Gartshore will attend the December County MHAG to discuss this.
Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley	None
Dover, Deal & Shepway	The government are putting £400m into mental health crisis resolution services. When are we going to get these funds? Can all local MHAGs write to their MP asking when this will happen, how it is broken down, by area, needs, or population and is it ring fenced to ensure it goes to who it was meant for? Response from JDK: The additional funding I believe that is being referred to is money coming down for 2017 – 2018. The CCG Operational plans are still being worked up for 17/18 that should be finalized in Dec this year and those plans will hold the detail around any service developments.
Maidstone /Weald	None
South West Kent	1. Lots of money seems to be going into younger people's services but is there a commissioned service to support older people who self-harm, ie in the 25 to 55 age bracket? 2. Since the change in commissioning to the Live Well Kent service, there is a gap in services available to support older people with longer term mental health conditions. Can we be advised with what is happening to manage these people? See response for Ashford 3. PIP/Work Capability assessments. Appointments are allocated automatically and are not always for a suitable location. Examples given: 1) Someone in Tunbridge Wells being given an 8.45am appointment in Canning Town. This is expensive and not convenient for someone using public transport. 2) Croydon is not a suitable location for people with physical disabilities as, although there is a lift to the 3rd floor they will be sent away if they are not able to get down the stairs in case of a fire. The centre is receptive to home visits if the customer gets a letter from their doctor but does not always look at the customer ability to attend which can cause distress for someone who has made effort to attend. Is this something that has happened in other localities? Can criteria be looked at when appointments are allocated?

Swale	Recent incident with a person threatening to take an overdose. Crisis team told Riverside staff to remove medication but this is not allowed. Our policy is to call the police.
Thanet	Urgent need for appropriate telephone system at Thanet Community Mental Health Team base at the Beacon. Malcolm McFrederick response: I have been made recently aware of this issue, and a colleagues is investigating. (I am annoyed that I was not aware of the issue already.)
Medway	PRN medication question raised again. There is nobody available anywhere to write prescriptions at the weekend. No doctors at Medoc/Single Point of Access or at Sittingbourne Hospital from 4pm on Thursdays. Can this be rectified? Response Malcolm McFrederick: I have passed this on for further clarity on what the process should be, this does not seem right and causes me concern.