

**REPORT TO:** Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Health & Community  
**SUBJECT:** Dual Diagnosis Strategy

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Board of the development of a Joint Dual Diagnosis Commissioning Strategy 2009 - 2012 for Halton and St Helens - see appendix 1.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

i) **The Policy and Performance Board to note and comment on the draft Joint Dual Diagnosis Commissioning Strategy.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The strategy documents the current services already in place for people with both substance misuse and mental health problems, with a view to identifying and analysing the gaps in services and any blockages to delivering a more integrated care pathway.

3.2 Early in 2009, Mental Health Strategies conducted a number of consultation meetings with all stakeholders in both mental health and substance misuse services. They also arranged a number of one to one interviews to gain views on current services and to discuss how services could be improved.

3.3 In response to the analysis and consultation, the Dual Diagnosis Commissioning Strategy states the commissioning intentions over the next 3 years in improving services for people with a dual diagnosis of substance misuse and mental health problems. It identifies the actions and resources required to improve services, in line with Dual Diagnosis Good Practice Guide (Department of Health, 2002).

3.4 The strategy recommends more integrated working between substance misuse and mental health services, with earlier identification and treatment of dual diagnosis problems in primary care and an increase in skills and knowledge in both mental health and substance misuse staff, to enable them to provide care to people with dual diagnosis problems.

3.5 The model of services ensures that whichever service an individual

is referred to for help, whether in substance misuse or mental health, they will experience the same care pathway. This is designed to improve the care experience for people with Dual Diagnosis and reduce waiting times between services.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Commissioning strategy implements the recommendations from The Mental Health Policy Implementation Guidance: Dual Diagnosis Good Practice Guide.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Resource implications are identified within the strategy. Much of the cost will be in terms of organisational and individual time.

5.2 Some funding has been allocated from NHS Halton and St Helens adult mental health budget to support workforce planning and development

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The development of a multi-agency group to agree joint commissioning decisions between substance misuse, alcohol and mental health commissioners is a recommendation in the strategy and will, therefore, require commitment from NHS and Local Authority Commissioning staff to work in partnership.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

##### **7.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified

##### **7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

##### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

Earlier detection and treatment of both substance misuse and mental health problems, plus improvements in providing more integrated services, will ensure that people with dual diagnosis receive the right level of care, delivered by the most appropriate services to enable them to recover.

##### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 Not implementing the actions documented in the Dual Diagnosis Commissioning Strategy is likely to lead to significantly poorer outcomes for people with mental health and substance misuse issues.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 None