

Meeting:	Public Protection & Enforcement Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	Wednesday 28 th June 2023
Report title:	Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychology Operations Directorate update
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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Public Protection & Enforcement Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, Bromley Council with a report from Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychology Operations Directorate, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

1. Update

- The Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychology Operations Directorate continues to work closely with our partners including service users, carers and their families as well as our strategic partners to bring together services to ensure we are responsive to the care and support needs of our local communities.
- In order to implement further improvements to our services South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust co-designed and then adopted a 5 year Strategy; “Aiming High, Changing Lives” and work is in train across all projects within this strategy to allow us to meet the five strategic ambitions we have set: To deliver outstanding mental health care; be a partner in prevention, be a catalyst for change, build a culture of trust together and become effective and sustainable.
- Working collaboratively with our local partners has allowed us to focus on prevention, access, early intervention and recovery to improve our reach and impact on people’s lives, including through the work with One Croydon and our Recovery College, Maudsley Learning and our colleagues at King’s Health Partners.
- The Trust is working closely with our partners to ensure we are able to support the most vulnerable people in our communities with social care, housing, health employment, education and staying well.
- Our most recent CQC inspection of adult services on site at The Bethlem Royal Hospital resulted in an upgrading of our rating for inpatient wards from Requires Improvement to Good.
- We are continuing to improve Croydon community mental health provision, under our ongoing Croydon Transformation work, to ensure there is sufficient resource and capacity throughout the system to deliver a seamless, evidence-based and person-centred service to the local population. We are also looking to support our service users’ transition back to primary care and improve support for community patients following discharge.
- For more information about the organisation please see South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust’s Annual Report and Accounts.

2. Bethlem Royal Hospital – site update

- In 2022, the Trust was able to welcome visitors back to The Bethlem Royal Hospital site. Whilst infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures remain in place we are delighted to have access for dog walkers, local bowls and football clubs, “Park Run”, and public exhibitions at the Museum of the Mind up and running again.

- We are working closely with Certitude, the providers of the service at “The Orchards” to ensure we are doing all we can to support the recovery of our service users transferred into the flats there and to work together to address recent concerns around antisocial behaviour in and outside of the units. To note The Orchards flats are for use for our service users, who no longer need to be in hospital to take the next step in their recovery whilst they await their home, placement or care package to be ready
- Our low secure residential forensic rehabilitation unit Ward in the Community is to be transitioned in 2023 from its current site at Lambeth Hospital to the Bethlem Royal Hospital site. The exact location on site is to be determined but to note, the move will see the transfer off of the Bethlem Royal Hospital site of another service; the National specialist neurorehabilitation inpatient ward for neuropsychiatry and brain injury, “The Lishman Unit” which will move to the Maudsley Hospital site.

3. Bromley Protocol

- We remain committed to working with our partners at Bromley Council to support the Bromley Protocol with adhering to the agreement that we have in place.
- Following its reintroduction in 2022 The Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry Operations Directorate continues to lead a monthly Bethlem Royal Hospital Site Meetings. Key stakeholders from across the site come together to look at a number of site-based matters including site incidents and the interface with the community, including Bromley Council.
- There were a total of 25 incidents of absconsion from our medium secure wards for the period March 2022 to May 2023. Absconding from leave was the most commonly recorded sub-category for AWOL based incidents.
- It is recognised that the 25 incidents of absconsion is higher than the 10 incidents referenced for the period of March 2021 to February 2022 reported to this Scrutiny Committee on 23rd March 2022. This is materially attributed to improved recording and reporting of absconsion incidents following extensive work relating to absconsion following the enacting of the Bromley Protocol. None of these incidents were associated with the patient re-offending.
- It should be noted that the granting of leave is done with very careful consideration, taking into account all the aspects of a person’s personal, family, past medical, past psychiatric, risk history and current mental state. The granting of gradually increasing leave is aimed at supporting someone’s safe rehabilitation into the community. This approach has been shown to be successful in reducing re-offending, with rates of recidivism in Forensic psychiatric patients in the UK being up to 7.7 times lower than recidivism rates in prisoners in Criminal Justice Settings.