

# Prison healthcare recommissioning

## Background

An ambitious project to commission redesigned healthcare services to meet the needs of prisoners in 11 prisons in the South West is being launched by NHS England and NHS Improvement South West.

In the South West, the NHS England and NHS Improvement Health and Justice team currently commission a lead provider model for both the male and female prison healthcare services to support integrated, patient centred care across a full range of service specialities to manage the complex healthcare needs of those in the prisons.

NHS England and NHS Improvement and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) are jointly committed to increasingly equitable and inclusive healthcare and to facilitate this plan to together change how healthcare is commissioned and delivered in a prison setting. This vision will help to meet the objectives set out in the strategy for the NHS, the Long-Term Plan and the National Partnership Agreement recognising the specific needs of individual prisoners.

The aims of the recommissioning healthcare project are to:

- Ensure that people detained in prisons in England have access to appropriate services or treatment, based on assessed need and in line with current national or evidence-based guidelines.
- Ensure services are designed to be consistent in range, quality, accessibility and acceptability with those available to the wider community, to achieve equitable health outcomes between people in prison and in the wider community
- Ensure the right level of effective care will be provided to meet the needs of individuals within the setting using the most effective and efficient model.

These commitments have led to a review of how healthcare services within prison settings are commissioned and delivered at a local level, ensuring they are fit for purpose, deliver equality of access, improve health outcomes, reflect the higher levels of learning disability and autism found in prisons and make the best use of available resources. The results of the review will be considered throughout the recommissioning project.

## Our ambitions

This new recommissioning healthcare exercise is an opportunity to work with those in our prisons, staff and stakeholders to design a way of jointly working together to truly deliver healthcare in prison settings that meets the need of each individual. We aim to;

- Reduce suicide and self-harm across all prisons in the South West to among the lowest numbers in the country by introducing best practice prevention and support services
- Ensure that we listen to patients and incorporate their feedback at all stages of the recommissioning process from design through to delivery as part of a collaborative approach to commissioning. This will ensure services meet the needs of the prison

population and supports Prison Group Directors & Governors to make prisons safer and healthier.

- Help individuals to take ownership of their health and develop the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to take action for themselves. Also ensure continuity of care after individuals are released from prison, supporting reductions in re-offending
- Promote diagnosis of learning disabilities and deliver appropriate treatment throughout the region's prison healthcare services, including referral services and strengthen links to non-custodial settings such as Reconnect and Liaison and Diversion.
- Embed a continual improvement ethos with prison managers, commissioners and providers to ensure the best evidenced-based healthcare is in place across all services and sites and use the latest technology to deliver care, improve links to community services and introduce the latest advancements in treatment
- Recommission across the full spectrum of care for a service (e.g. mental health) and to deliver seamless care from community into custody through to release back into the community again
- Ensure the highest level of skilled staff work across all services, ensuring an appropriate skill-mix of primary, urgent and emergency care supported by a HMPPS workforce that can identify individuals with greater healthcare needs and signpost them through to services appropriately.

## Next Steps

The Health and Justice team within NHS England and NHS Improvement South West are working with partners to arrange a number of Agile Sprint design workshops with patients, partner organisations and providers in November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 (subject to any impacts imposed by Covid-19 responses). The Sprint workshops will focus on bringing all stakeholders together to look at services currently provided, suggest areas for improvement and considerations for a service delivery model suitable for each cluster of prisons, appropriate for each individual prison. It will also involve considerable day-to-day involvement of specialist Lived Experience organisations who will collect feedback from prisoner interviews, and carryout detailed research on national and international best practice in prison healthcare.

A Prior Information Notice (PIN) will be published on Contracts Finder and in the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) by South Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW), on behalf of NHS England and NHS Improvement South West. SCW are providing procurement support and expertise for this recommissioning exercise.