

Primary Care Mental Health Service in Nottingham City: Briefing for Nottingham City Health Scrutiny Committee

The Primary Care Mental Health Service was implemented in January 2017 and funded by the Better Care Fund (BCF). The aim of the service was to meet the mental health needs of City patients that GPs felt required additional treatment to what they could offer, but did not meet the criteria for secondary mental health care.

In December 2017, faced with financial pressures on the Better Care Fund budget, the decision to withdraw the funding was taken by various committees, including the Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee. Notice was served to the provider, Nottinghamshire Healthcare, in January 2018 with a contract end date of 31 January 2019.

Affected patients have received a letter from Nottinghamshire Healthcare. Patients in active treatment have been reassured that their treatment will be completed. Patients on the waiting list have been advised to contact their GP for a review and made aware of other sources of support such as talking therapies and Wellness in Mind.

The CCG remains committed to its obligations on mental health spending. Across Nottingham City this year, the CCG expects to spend £55.5M on mental health services across a range of primary, secondary and specialist mental health services.

It is important to acknowledge that the Better Care Fund decision was informed by the CCG's intention at the time to review the entire primary care mental health pathway. Following a scoping exercise, it became apparent that a redesign of this service would not be possible due to a significantly reduced financial envelope. The CCG confirmed this with the Trust on 4 October 2018 and is working closely with them to deliver the exit strategy for the service.

In early 2019, the CCG will be carrying out a review of mental health services and will keep the Committee updated.