

**Health Scrutiny Committee  
17 December 2020**

**Support for people in mental health crisis**

**Report of the Head of Legal and Governance**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To review the support and pathways for people who are in mental health crisis.

**2. Action required**

2.1 The Committee is asked to identify if any further scrutiny is required and if so, the focus and timescales.

**3. Background information**

3.1 The Committee is aware of the 111 First programme that aims to improve the way that patients access urgent care by ensuring that they receive the right care in the most appropriate setting first time, for both physical and mental health issues. The Committee has also heard reports of increases in the number of people presenting in mental health crisis at the Emergency Department, including increasing numbers not previously known to services, and anecdotally in relation to Police services and increases in mental health issues associated with the current Covid-19 pandemic. The Care Quality Commission recently published a national report about how people's mental health needs are met in acute hospitals including the barriers faced in accessing help at a time of crisis.

3.2 In this context, the Committee wanted to explore what support and pathways are in place locally for people in mental health crisis, whether this is sufficient to meet the level of need and how the healthcare system works to ensure that people are able to access the right service at the right time in the right place.

3.3 Attached is a joint briefing from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about mental health crisis pathways in place and further plans for improvement. Representatives of the Trust and CCG will be attending the meeting to discuss this with the Committee.

**4. List of attached information**

4.1 Briefing on Mental Health Crisis Pathways from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group

**5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

5.1 None

**6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 CQC (October 2020) ‘How are people’s mental health needs met in acute hospitals, and how can this be improved?’

Minutes of the meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee held on 17 September and 15 October 2020

**7. Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

**8. Contact information**

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