

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD: PUBLIC
21 May 2020

Title	Mental Health Committee 5 March 2020 – Chair’s Report
Committee Chair	Jenny Kay, Committee Chair
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Purpose of the report

To bring to the Board’s attention key issues and assurances discussed at the Mental Health Committee meeting held on 5 March 2020.

Issues to be brought to Board’s attention

The following key items and assurances were considered by the Committee at its meeting on 5 March 2020:

Peer Support Workers (PSWs)

A presentation on the work of PSWs included an explanation of their role:

- Are experts by experience
- Use the recovery role method
- Provide support for people in recovery, in crisis, and in the long-term in the community
- Support re-introduction into the community
- Help families understanding
- Provide safe and supportive relationships between peers
- Talk about how people would like to see their healthcare in the future
- Talk about how medication can help and how to live with that
- Are role models
- Help fight stigma.

The Committee noted:

- Accreditation courses with the Royal College of Psychiatrists are available for PSWs
- PSWs can be selected and recruited in various ways, including via project work and by recommendation. Once trained, people can apply for advertised PSW roles and applications are restricted to those relevant to the role. Regular supervision is provided.

AHM Appointments & Terminations

There have been four new AMH appointments all of whom are now in post.

Mental Health Law Department

- From 1 April 2020, the new centralisation of Mental Health Act (MHA) offices across East London will be implemented with one office based at Tower Hamlets. This will not affect AHMs. All paper reviews will take place at Tower Hamlets.
- A Mental Health Law (MHL) Monitoring Group has been established chaired by Dr Paul Gilluley, Chief Medical Officer. The group will discuss the operational issues with a clinical focus and be the filter for Mental Health Law matters
The action log from this Committee will transfer to the MHL Monitoring Group. Paul Gilluley will be invited to attend this Committee to provide updates on MHL. The minutes from the MHL Monitoring Group can be shared with this Committee
Coronavirus preparation planning is underway and AHMs will be advised of the potential impact on them; indications from the government are that the MHA may be temporarily amended during this period
- Reporting of exceptional measures/alternative arrangements will be recorded, monitored and temporary.

Learning from Experience

- The design of the doctors' report has been amended
- The Appeal Decision e-Form has been amended to be more user friendly and simplified

Legal Update

- A white paper was expected by the end of December 2019 but this has not been sent out yet; there is no indication as to when this will be
- Concern was raised that there were no updates from the centre on the Mental Health Units Use of Force Act, the paper on Liberty Protection and Safeguards nor the Code of Practice and Regulations
- Caroline Dinenage MP left the role of DoH Lead; Helen Whately has been appointed. This will mean a further delay on Liberty of Protection and Safeguarding amendment.

Previous Minutes: The approved Minutes of the MHA Committee meeting held on 6 December 2019 are available on request by Board Directors from the Associate Director of Corporate Governance.