

**18 October 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Older Adult Therapeutic Service (OATS) in Sandwell
<b>Presenting Officer and Organisation</b>	Clinical Lead- Gemma Lockley Clinical Nurse Specialist- Fiona Jones Black Country Healthcare NHS Trust bchft.oatssandwellspoke@nhs.net
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	Information

## **1 Recommendations**

- 1.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to receive a brief overview on the Older Adult Therapeutic Service which provides therapeutic interventions for people over 65 with Dementia or mental health difficulties who are being supported by secondary mental health services within Sandwell. This will allow the Board to have an understanding of therapeutic services within the Sandwell Borough. We will enhance the boards understanding of how our service supports people living with mental health difficulties and how this positively affects their wellbeing.

## **2 Links to the following Board Priorities**

<b>Priority 1</b>	<b>We will help keep people healthier for longer</b>
<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>We will help keep people safe and support communities</b>
<b>Priority 3</b>	<b>We will work together to join up services</b>
<b>Priority 4</b>	<b>We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services</b>

- 2.1 This meets all four of the Boards priorities by helping people to remain healthier for longer in both their physical health and mental health. We provide our interventions within safe community environments and explore patients safety needs at all times during our interventions. We have been working closely with other services within Sandwell to ensure that patient's have a consistent approach to their needs, avoiding duplication of questions and subsequent work completed. By having an enhanced understanding of the OATS service, it will encourage people

to seek appropriate support for their mental health needs from a variety of statutory/ third sector organisations.

## 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Our service is divided into two pathways:

- Dementia Pathway: we provide short term therapeutic intervention in the form of groups for people living with dementia of any age. This may be Dementia education or nationally recommended non medication treatments.
- Functional pathway: short term therapeutic intervention is provided to people living with mental illness who are receiving support from a secondary care services. These interventions can be delivered by groups or on an individual basis dependant on the person's therapeutic needs at assessment.

4.2 All patients being referred into OATS need to demonstrate capacity and consent to engage with therapeutic interventions at the point of referral into the service.

## 5 Engagement

5.1 The Older Adult Therapeutic Service was created in May 2022 following the harmonisation of individual older adult community services across Black Country Healthcare NHS Trust. Within our first year we have developed therapeutic groups which form both our dementia pathway and functional pathways. We continue to review our waiting lists on a weekly basis and facilitate therapeutic groups within different areas of the community during the working week. Timescales have been set out by our trust and are reviewed by senior management to ensure standards are being met to a timely manner.

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	Finding suitable community venues can be challenging at times due to costing of room hire. Our basic staffing is currently being met which allows us flexibility on days of providing our interventions. Purchasing of equipment for our groups is managed by Senior Management and the locality leads.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	No direct implications arising from this report.

<b>Risk:</b>	Risk assessments are completed by the clinicians involved for each patient and reviewed continuously. Venue risk assessments are completed for each venue we use.
<b>Equality:</b>	Clinicians have completed Equality and Healthcare training, our groups are developed as a Multi-Disciplinary team which forms that Older Adult Therapeutic Service ensuring that equality and diversity is maintained at all times. Staff also work to meet needs of individual patients where possible. We are looking to develop therapeutic groups within the Black Country specifically tailored for people within the South Asian community.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	No current implications identified, evaluations show that our interventions have improved patient's mental health and well being. Evidence based outcome measures are completed for patients pre and post intervention. This ensures that interventions are effective and beneficial to the individual. Therapeutic groups are frequently evaluated and amended based on evidence base/ patient/ facilitator feedback.
<b>Social Value:</b>	The Older Adult Therapeutic Service model explores social needs for patients attending our interventions. Whether this be by providing social inclusion within a group setting or signposting to an appropriate service. Peer Support workers further enhance our patients recovery by supporting them to access further occupations within the community
<b>Climate Change:</b>	No direct implications arising from this report.
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	No direct implications arising from this report.

## 6 Appendices

Appendix 1 - OATS Referral Form

Appendix 2 - Referrer's guide

Appendix 3 - OATS Model

## 7. Background Papers

N/A