

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WEST LOTHIAN - DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

The Panel considered a report by the Depute Chief Executive (copies of which had been circulated) on the continuing key developments within Mental Health Services in West Lothian. Nick Clater, General Manager – Mental Health and Addictions, presented the report and delivered a presentation to the Panel on the Acute Care and Support Team (ACAST).

ACAST was a nursing team within Mental Health Services which worked to prevent admission to hospital and facilitate successful discharge. The Team had a significant presence within the Emergency Department at St. John's Hospital (SJH) seven days per week from 9am to midnight and assisted with the bridge between inpatient and outpatient care.

An overview of the service was provided, followed by key statistics and current challenges. Significant investments had been made by the West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership to grow the team and at present an average of 130 referrals were received per month. It was advised that on average, over 60% of people seen for unscheduled or urgent assessments could be supported at home as a direct alternative to hospital admission. Less than 15% required hospital admission.

ACAST provided a valuable service in the context of pressures on hospital beds due to increasing A&E attendance figures, SJH providing overflow mental health services for hospitals in other areas and an increase in the number of intoxicated patients arriving at A&E.

Future developments had been planned including the ongoing redesign of the SJH Emergency Department which would assist the service by providing a separate quieter anti-ligature treatment room. Work was also being undertaken to develop a suite of performance indicators and more streamlined output and outcomes data. The possibilities of ACAST including a Consultant Psychiatrist and working with Street Triage teams in partnership with Police Scotland were being explored to improve outcomes.

It was advised that people often presented at A&E while intoxicated and that they needed to wait until it was safe for them to be seen. Often they did not require mental health services but there were no other services able to assist them. It was noted that a better way of managing intoxicated patients would be explored in future.

The Panel queried the progress with Street Triage teams which were currently being trialled in other areas in Scotland. These were also planned to be explored further in future alongside a possible 'safe space' initiative.

The Panel were asked to note the progress made by the service to address the needs of this population.

### Decision

To note the terms of the report and the presentation.