

Dementia Select Committee – Hearing 8th April 2011

Justine Leonard (1.30 pm)

Biography

Justine is Service Line Director for Older Adults & Specialist Services, Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust.

Themes & Questions

1. Could you please introduce yourself and your role and give an overview of how KPMT services in relation to dementia are set up - are these similar across the county and what, if any changes are envisaged in the future?
 - a. How quickly can people access memory clinics after being referred from primary care?
 - b. Where and how often do clinics take place?
 - c. Once people are in touch, how long does it take for people to obtain a diagnosis,
 - d. What is involved and how is the diagnosis monitored?
2. How does KMPT currently work with other health and social care professionals - what joint/integrated work is taking place or planned in the future?
3. Could you please comment on any differences in approach regarding diagnosis, treatment and support for people experiencing younger onset dementia and their family/carers.
4. Are resources currently evenly spread - where are the gaps across the county?
5. What information is provided to people with dementia and their families to help them understand local services and the level of quality and outcomes that they can expect? Is there guidance on family involvement and confidentiality at the point of diagnosis? What is the involvement of the Voluntary Sector?
6. The Carers Joint Needs Assessment document for Kent highlights that 'Caring for someone who has dementia is a risk factor for depression and that one third of people who care for someone who has dementia have depression. How are carers needs addressed by KPMT in order to support their role and provide some protection against depression?
7. Could you comment on shared care with respect to dementia and on the likelihood of a greater role for GPs in the prescribing of dementia drugs – what happens currently and what developments do you believe could contribute to improved care and support for people with dementia and their families/carers in the future?

8. In your view, what innovations in dementia treatment and care are helping to transform services?
9. Mental health professionals are skilled in identifying differences between delirium, depression and dementia – how can knowledge transfer take place between professionals, and more widely to aid in the early diagnosis of dementia.
10. What are the three most important changes which needs to happen to shift the experience of people with dementia and their carers in Kent from one portrayed to the select committee of a carer coping largely unassisted and a diagnosis being obtained quite late on in illness progression to one of early signposting to IAG, early diagnosis and personalised, good quality care with improved quality of life for both the family/carer(s) and cared for person?