

Healthwatch Representatives Feedback Form

Representative name	Martin Haddon
Meeting	Wandsworth Black and Minority Ethnic Mental Health Forum
Date & Time	21 January 2016 2-4 pm (the Forum meets on a monthly basis)
Who attended	There was a solid attendance of old and new faces, including some service users, carers and voluntary sector service providers, plus representatives of the CCG, the Mental Health Trust and Social Services. The forum was chaired as usual by Malik Gul (WCEN).
Key issues	<p>The main business took the form of updates from Mark Barnard, Head of Wandsworth Council's mental health social service teams, and from Jeremy Walsh, Wandsworth Service Director at SWLStG Mental Health Trust. Issues that arose in discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fears that the withdrawal of mental health social workers from the CMHTs would lead to barriers in communication to the detriment of people with mental health problems and social care needs. Mark Barnard made clear that he would be working to avoid this. - Mark said that the numbers of assessments and reviews being carried out were increasing, particularly the number of Mental Health Act assessments, reflecting a national trend. He is looking

at the statistics with Public Health colleagues to identify underlying causes and will come back to the forum when this work is completed. He mentioned that the team has already met its annual target of over 90 people signed up for Direct Payment and that the total number of people in receipt of a service, and thus requiring an annual review, was 495.

- Concern was expressed on behalf of service users about the difficulty of finding out about eligibility for social support. Mark explained that eligibility is based on an assessment of needs. Anyone can contact Social Services' Access Team and ask for an assessment. Contact details to be circulated to the forum.

- Jeremy Walsh reported on the reorganisation of the CMHTs in November 2015 following the withdrawal of social work staff and mentioned a number of hoped for service improvements, currently being negotiated with the CCG for 2016-7. These include the extension of "street triage" police support to a 24 hour, 7 day a week service.

- The meeting took a particular interest in the proposal (still under negotiation) for a "Primary Care Plus" service to provide support to GP surgeries in managing support for people following their discharge from secondary mental health care. Forum members welcomed this development but stressed the need for it to focus on social rather than medical aspects, connecting people with support available in the community. This should determine the skills and knowledge required. The need for more mental health training for GPs was emphasised.

- A forum member raised the concern among Muslims at the Government's Prevent strategy. Mark and Jeremy said that although it is a statutory obligation on all services to report signs of radicalisation, in the mental health sector this is being handled sensitively.

<p>Healthwatch Actions and What to Watch</p>	<p>We will continue to follow the work of the forum and take account of its members' views in our own discussions with the services.</p>
<p>The Meeting in one sentence (for blog, FB, Tweeter, newsletter)</p>	<p>BME community raises its concerns with the mental health services.</p>