Joint Commissioning Panel – Mental Health

8 March 2012

Report of the Director of Delivery

Introduction

It is the purpose of this Report to update members of the JCP – MH of progress in respect of the delivery of its objectives in 2011/12. This is the final such report and it updates Panel members on progress since the last meeting on the 24 January 2012.

Background

This report describes further progress against the JCP priorities. Both the priorities and the timeline remain subject to review by the Panel in the light of changing circumstances and in particular in response to changes in policy direction or emphasis.

The Policy Context

The JCP – MH continues to carry out its work within the context of the Health and Social Care Bill. Further details of the Government’s intentions continue to emerge as the Bill continues its passage through Parliament with the possibility of further amendments arising from the House of Lords. In recent weeks opposition to the Bill from Medical Colleges and other professional bodies has strengthened, as has political opposition including from within the Coalition itself.

Update on work plan priorities – progress to date

When the JCP-MH was first established in April 2011 it agreed a five-point workplan for delivery in 2011/12. The workplan in summary proposed:

2. The articulation of the principles of Values Based Commissioning
3. The development of commissioning guidance in respect of Public Mental Health.
4. The development of a guide to MH Payment by Results for Clinical Commissioners – including GPs.
5. Support for Regional Activity in respect of Mental Health Commissioning.
The Director of Delivery continues to hold meetings and discussions with key individuals to take forward the priorities of the JCP-MH. Since the January Meeting these have included; meetings with individual members of the JCP and a number of Expert Reference Groups as described in more detail below.

A Commissioning Framework for Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Authorities

Publication of first wave of Guides

Since the last meeting of the JCP-MH the first four Commissioning Guides have been published as the first wave of Volume 2 of the Commissioning Framework. The four Guides that have been published are:

- Primary Mental Health Care
- Liaison
- CAMHS (Transition)
- Dementia

The process of dissemination of the Guides is well underway and all can be located electronically on the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ website. A relatively small number of hard copies are being made available. As has been previously reported the Learning Disabilities Commissioning Guidance, whilst not formally endorsed by the JCP-MH, is currently being piloted in three Clinical Commissioning Group areas with a view to subsequent revision in the light of feedback and changes to the policy environment.

Update and Onward Process for Descriptor (Guide) Development

At its January meeting, the JCP-MH received an update on progress with the remaining Commissioning Guides as set out in the (revised) JCP Workplan. What follows is a brief summary of the current status of each of the other Commissioning Guides that the JCP-MH is committed to deliver.

- Addictions: There have been two meetings of the Addictions Expert Reference Group (ERG) which is chaired by Dr Owen Bowden-Jones A specification/scope has been agreed and work is underway to develop draft guidance in the course of March 2012. A further ERG is planned for 26 March 2012.
- Perinatal: There have been two meetings of the Perinatal ERG which is chaired by Dr Margaret Oates. At the most recent ERG significant progress
was made towards the drafting of the guidance and it is anticipated that a substantial draft will be available to share with members of the JCP-MH at the end of March 2012. A further ERG is planned and the date is yet to be confirmed.

- Older People: There have been three meetings of the ERG which is chaired by Dr Peter Connelly. A specification/scope has been agreed and work is underway to develop draft guidance in the course of March 2012. A further ERG is planned and the date is yet to be confirmed.

- Community Mental Health Services: There have been two meetings of the ERG which is chaired by Prof Helen Lester. Significant progress has been made towards the drafting of the guidance and it is anticipated that a substantial draft will be available to share with members of the JCP-MH at the end of March 2012. A further ERG is planned and yet to be arranged.

- Eating Disorders: The first meeting of the ERG was held on 30 January 2012 and was chaired by Dr Lorna Richards. A specification/scope is currently being drawn up and a second meeting of the ERG is planned for 29 March 2012.

- Acute Care: This will be a major undertaking for the JCP-MH given the potentially vast scope of the guidance and the complex inter-relatedness of it to each of the other Guides. The ERG is currently under development and will be co-chaired by Dr Laurence Mynors-Wallace and the CEO of MIND, Paul Farmer.

- CAMHS (all services): There have been two meetings of the ERG chaired by Dr Margaret Murphy and further meetings of a smaller drafting subgroup. Significant progress has been made in the development of the draft guidance and it is anticipated that an early draft will be available for members of the JCP-MH at its meeting on 8 March 2012. A final meeting of the ERG is scheduled for the end of March.

- Rehabilitation Services: There have been two meetings of the ERG which is chaired by Dr Helen Killaspey. Considerable progress has been made towards the development of the draft guidance which it is anticipated will be in an advance form by the end of March 2012. The next meeting of the ERG is scheduled for 14 March 2012.

- Forensics: It was always envisaged that the development of the Forensic guidance would be late in the overall development of Volume 2 of the Commissioning Framework. Work is yet to begin with the first ERG yet to be scheduled.

**Public Mental Health Commissioning**

One of the initial five priorities for the JCP-MH when it established its workplan for 2011/12 was the development of guidance in respect of Public Mental Health. This work has progressed well and it is anticipated that the Guidance will be published in April 2012.
Risks and Mitigation (Resources and Timescale)

As reported in each Director’s report since the inception of the JCP there is an ongoing risk in respect of the match between expectation and capacity. By further expanding the scope of a number of the Guides in the course of 2011/12 and by accelerating the commencement of others there emerged a danger that this risk may be exacerbated. Considerable progress has been made through the year in respect of each of the initial five priorities. Some delay has occurred in respect of the development of individual Guides and a forward plan exists into 2012/13 to complete this task. The risk of matching capacity and expectation remains apparent in the forthcoming financial year.

Communications

The activities of the JCP continue to be the subject of a number of national and regional conferences and events with more planned in the immediate future. The co-chairs and other members of the JCP have also been actively promoting the work of the JCP at national and regional events.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Joint Commissioning Panel:

1. Notes the progress in respect of the delivery of the initial five priorities as agreed in the 2011/12 workplan.
2. Notes the publication of the first four commissioning Guides and the position regarding Learning Disabilities.
3. Notes the progress in the development of the remaining commissioning Guides.
4. Notes the risks to delivery and the actions to mitigate these as set out in the Report.

Kieron Murphy

JCP-MH Director of Delivery