

INSPECTORATE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WHOLE SERVICE EVALUATION KILDARE WEST WICKLOW

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 2012

Introduction

As part of the inspections of 2012 the Inspectorate undertook a Whole Service Evaluation (WSE) of Kildare West Wicklow which included an inspection of the following:

- Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital
- Celbridge Day Hospital
- Celbridge Homebased Treatment Team
- Bramble Lodge Community Residence, Newbridge
- Larine House Community Residence, Kildare
- Celbridge Outpatients Department
- Celbridge North Kildare Sector Team
- South Kildare Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

The inspection took place over three days in May 2012. All the above inspections were published as separate reports on the Mental Health Commission website.

Description of service

Kildare West Wicklow's in-patient service was provided by Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital, which provided 29 acute admission beds.

North East Kildare and North West Kildare Mental Health Services were being amalgamated, and a set of amalgamation protocols had been established to facilitate this which was already demonstrating a more stream-lined and efficient service.

Discussion

Lakeview in-patient unit in Naas General Hospital was clean and well maintained. It was good to see the provision of additional showers for residents. The garden had been recently reclaimed and was a pleasant aspect of the unit. All residents whose clinical files were inspected had an individual care plan and therapeutic activities were provided by a dedicated Clinical Nurse Manager 1 (CNM1) and a staff nurse. Three patients had been transferred to another approved centre, two of whom were transferred in December 2011. Staff from Lakeview Unit maintained clinical responsibility for these patients, prompting some concern in the Inspectorate that the care of these residents could 'fall between two stools'.

The day hospital in Celbridge had an excellent care pathway for service users from the point of referral, through assessment, individual care planning, treatment and therapy, to discharge. This had resulted in a decrease in the need for in-patient care.

The homebased treatment team operated as part of the community mental health team and was staffed by six registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs). There was an excellent referral system, assessment procedure and individual care planning. A wide range of therapeutic interventions were available through the mental health team.

The South Kildare Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provided a very comprehensive service to children and adolescents in the catchment area but the service would benefit from improved access to child and adolescent in-patient beds and day hospital facilities.

There was a strong ethos of recovery noted in the operation of both Larine House and Bramble Lodge community residences.

The outpatient department did not exist in the traditional sense but was an excellent service nevertheless in which outpatient care was provided through a clinical nurse specialist team for people with enduring mental illness and the Homebased Treatment Team for people with acute mental illness.

Overall this was an extremely impressive mental health service with a committed staff.