

Briefing

Technical Consultation on Eating Disorders: Pathway For Wales

Background:

Consultation currently underway for eating disorders such as Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa in Wales. The Minister for Health & Social Services announced on 15th October 2008 an allocation of £0.5m for 2009 and recurring £1m to develop community services for eating disorders.

The consultation document 'Eating Disorders: Framework for Wales' has outlined the following issues:

- a) NHS Wales re-structuring
- b) Co-morbidity with other conditions
- c) Medical stabilisation and re-feeding for severe cases, including input from physicians and dieticians
- d) All best practice on eating disorders issued since 2006

The full document and executive summary documents are available for technical consultation until 30th January 2009 and can be accessed at:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/?lang=en>

Consultation Questions:

1. What are the challenges to the implementation of the Pathway nationally and locally?
2. What are your views on the recommendations for specialist tertiary eating disorder teams?
3. Any other specific comments

CVS response to the consultation on 'Eating Disorder'

- There is a need to understand more about what are some of the underlying causes for eating disorders i.e. more local research on what are the underlying factors/influences that contribute to eating disorders (across all ages) – this will help all agencies to begin identifying the right approaches
- More emphasis on training and education of professionals to aid early detection, preventative work and prompt responses
- Signposting to support networks across all agencies – for the person with, or suspected of having an eating disorder and for their families, partners, carers etc
- Tackle the responsibility issue of the impact of the media on 'susceptible minds' i.e. adolescence and control/censor this more
- Raise the profile of eating disorders so that it is not a taboo subject – it is ok to ask for help!
- The existing proposals for care pathways does not take the opportunity to utilise the contribution and support of the voluntary sector - linking more with the voluntary sector can provide a more holistic pathway closer to home
- The need for more training, education and funding for this work particularly for the voluntary and community groups to support this work