What is a joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy?
A joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy is a document that sets out how the County Council and the NHS in Oxfordshire will work together to plan for the needs of people with mental health conditions and what services have to be bought to deliver the results agreed in local and national policy for mental health and social care.

This strategy for planning and buying mental health services sets out the key principles and objectives for the contracts we hold with local health and social care providers. It does not set out the detail of which services will be available to service users ‘on the ground’, but it should identify the overall outcomes or results those services must deliver.

Why are we doing this now?
The current joint commissioning strategy, “Better Mental Health in Oxfordshire (BMHO)”, ends in 2012. It is therefore the right time now to be thinking about our strategy to support mental health and well-being going forward over the next 3 years.

There are also a lot of changes happening both nationally and locally and we need to make sure the new strategy reflects this. This includes:

- Managing the changes brought about by the responsibility for buying health services being passed to GP-led Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)
- Taking forward national policy from the new national mental health strategy “No Health without Mental Health”
- Building on the good work that we have done to deliver mental health housing, well-being and recovery services under the programme for “Better Mental Health in Oxfordshire (BMHO)”

What might change and what will stay the same?
There are not expected to be any immediate ‘on the ground’ changes as a result of the strategy. The strategy will mean that:

- **We will continue to work** with a focus on quality, recovery, working with people to plan their own care and the wider system, and achieving value for money
- **We will put a greater emphasis** on improving the mental well-being of the whole population in Oxfordshire
- **We will find new ways** to support people in transition in mental health - whether between childhood and adulthood, on getting older, or in moving between services or institutions and the wider community

Our proposed objectives for 2012-15
The key challenge for this strategy is to develop a whole person, whole life approach to mental health and well-being that covers all ages and the needs of the wider population, not just those who become ill enough to need to use mental health services. We propose that the new joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy should deliver the following outcomes:

1. **Quality** The services that we commission (buy) will be high quality, personalised and will ensure that the people they care for receive the highest possible standards of care.

We need to make sure that when people are unwell, that services delivered in in Oxfordshire are safe, are respectful of people’s dignity and have positive outcomes for them on their journey to recovery. We also need to make sure that there is a process in place for you to tell us what goes well and alert us when things go wrong.
2. **Co-production and accountability** The services we commission (buy) will be integrated into the communities they serve and will be accountable to those communities for the quality of outcomes they deliver.

We need to make mental health and well-being everybody’s business, and ensure that the services we buy meet the needs of everyone. We believe we can only do this with the active population of the communities in which the services operate.

3. **Well-being & stigma in the wider community** More people will be well and it will be easier for people living with mental health problems to participate in mainstream society.

We need to address stigma, discrimination and improve well-being with people of all ages and backgrounds in Oxfordshire and help those living with mental health problems move towards recovery and stay living within their local communities.

4. **Transition** People in transition between services will be supported in a way that identifies their needs and ensures that the experience supports their well-being and recovery.

We need to make sure that the step from childhood to becoming an adult, or stepping from an institution (such as the armed forces or prison) is properly supported and does not make people’s mental health worse.

5. **Recovery** More people will manage their own care as independently as possible in the wider community and live productive lives that reflect their hopes and ambitions.

Recovery has underpinned our approach to commissioning since 2009 and we think this should continue. People tell us that they want support that encourages them and helps them meet their hopes and ambitions, and does not just get stop them getting worse.

6. **Efficient use of resources, and value for money** We will make best use of resources to deliver our commissioning objectives.

During the lifetime of the new strategy the financial pressures on public services are likely to become greater. We believe that there are ways of managing this difficult challenge without compromising the outcomes we propose to set ourselves above.

**Questions to think about**
The objectives above are what we propose going forwards for the joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy 2012-15. Before this strategy is finalised we would like your feedback.

- Do you agree with these objectives? What would assure you that we are meeting them?
- Do you feel that these objectives are the right ones to support the mental health and well-being of the people of Oxfordshire? Have you any other suggestions?
- If you had to prioritise these objectives, which would you say was the most important to support mental health and well-being?

**Have your say – how to take part**
An engagement event on the Mental Health Commissioning Strategy 2012-15 is taking place on: **Wednesday 21 September 2011 at West Oxford Community Centre, 10.00am-2.30pm**

This event will look at the above objectives in more depth; give you a chance to discuss them in small groups; and an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. Places are limited due to the venue size. To book your place, contact us at:

- Email: talking.health@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
- Phone: 01865 334644

You can also write to us FREE with your views at:

Mental Health Strategy 2012-15
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