

**NOTICE OF MOTION  
LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE GROUP  
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

This council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health calling on them to:

- Ensure services are fully funded and fit for purpose, so that parity of esteem can be achieved, and that people can be treated locally wherever possible so that they can be supported by their families, carers and voluntary services
- End the fragmentation of services and ensure there are clear pathways to treatment and counselling regardless of level of need
- Ensure that everyone experiencing a mental health crisis is given prompt and appropriate treatment
- Guarantee everyone detained under S136 of the Mental Health Act is taken to a place of safety in the county in which they reside.

Proposed by: Cllr Penn

Seconded by: Cllr Allen

Supporting information:

- In 2012, the government promised mental health would have Parity of Esteem for mental health with physical health, but 5 years later mental health services for children and adults remain fragmented and under-funded, while staff are under extreme pressure.
- One in 4 of us will suffer a mental illness at any one time. Yet when people are at their most vulnerable, they face long delays for treatment.
- There are also significant gaps in service for a range of serious mental health conditions, and many including children in care and survivors of domestic violence struggle to get the support they need.
- Poor funding and organisation of mental health services for adults and children is not only failing people, but has a significant impact on many other parts of the NHS, and other public and voluntary services including council services. For example, mental health issues are a cause of homelessness, and there is a high prevalence of mental health problems among rough sleepers. People with mental health problems have more emergency admissions and longer hospital stays than other patients.
- Many mental health trusts have to regularly admit patients “out of area” to extra contractual beds, as they have been forced to close beds to save money and make savings. Not only is this very detrimental to the patients and their carers but it is hugely expensive, and will often be the main source of any overspend.

