

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Date: 25 May 2016

Title and Author of Paper: Parity of Esteem, Funding mental health at local level.
Chief Executive

Executive Lead: Chief Executive

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: Information and discussion

Key Points to Note:

The attached report from NHS Providers and the Healthcare Financial management Association considers the funding to mental health services from CCG's across the country. The report calls for greater clarity and transparency from the government and leaders of the arms-length bodies in the following key areas:

1. How much is being made available for mental health services, and in which areas,
2. Linked to this, greater transparency across the system about how much is actually being spent on mental health services,
3. Explicit alignment about what it means to meet parity of esteem commitments – this is because at both national and local level organisations are interpreting the requirements in different ways, which is leading to a patchwork of investment and services for patients,
4. Better enforcement and support for local organisations – this is needed to help counter the significant local variation highlighted in this survey about how the rules are being interpreted and responded to. Where organisations are struggling to invest in line with the guidance, support should be required to ensure that challenges are addressed.

Risks Highlighted to Board: The Board received a paper on local contract agreements in April 2016.

Does this affect any Board Assurance Framework/Corporate Risks? No

Equal Opportunities, Legal and Other Implications: None

Outcome Required: For information

Link to Policies and Strategies: None