

Newsletter October 2018

The Independent Inquiry into Mental Health services in Tayside started following the appointment of the Chair on 10 July (selection of Chair advised by the Stakeholder Participation Group (of patients, families and carers, convened by the Health and Social Care Alliance - The ALLIANCE)). A Staff Participation Group has been established, chaired by Mr Willie Duffy, UNISON.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry were finalised after consultation with the Stakeholder Participation Group and with staff/employees and were published on 5 September.

Inquiry offices were established in University of Dundee, who are also providing the Secretariat and research support to the Inquiry. Clinical advice is being provided by Dr David Hall, Consultant Psychiatrist NHS -Dumfries and Galloway.

The scope of the Inquiry remains largely as per the debate in the Scottish Parliament on 9 May: to inquire into the accessibility, safety, quality and standards of care provided by all mental health services in Tayside. The inquiry will examine end-to-end mental health services, including suicide prevention services and those provided by partner organisations and third party providers. The only amendment is that Learning Disabilities and Old Age Psychiatry are not explicitly excluded.

The Inquiry is being guided by the Principles agreed in the Scottish Parliament debate:

- Be open and transparent
- Be truly independent
- Include and involve staff from NHS Tayside, its partners and third sector providers
- Include and involve patients, families and carers
- Include a public call for evidence to ensure everyone's voice is heard.

The public Call for Evidence was issued on 5 September, with wide coverage in Tayside: BBC News, STV News, The Courier, Evening Telegraph, Tay FM. The Call was circulated widely to carers and support organisations and third sector bodies. The Inquiry asked for people to come forward with evidence of any experience accessing mental health services in Tayside. This may be evidence of good and bad experiences.

In the first two weeks, over 50 submissions of evidence were made to the Inquiry, from a range of people and organisations. Submissions were requested by 19 October (6 weeks), this has now been extended to the 2 November. The ALLIANCE has been facilitating community engagement events in all three Local Authority areas.

The Call for Oral evidence went out on 1st October and appointments to meet with the team to give evidence will be available until mid-December.

All evidence submissions will be analysed to identify the main areas for future investigation.

Many thanks so far to all those who have made contact with the Inquiry Team.