

# Services on the PCTs' chopping list

(from UNISON SLaM Branch newspaper)

In both Southwark and Lambeth the Primary Care Trusts are proposing a hefty "disinvestment" from mental health that will slash spending on services provided by the South London & Maudsley mental health NHS Trust (SLAM).

Southwark PCT is planning to axe spending by £4m this year, and Lambeth by £2m this year with another £2m cut to follow next year.

These cuts, which will inevitably undermine existing services and affect vulnerable patients, come on top of the Department of Health's requirement for the Trust to generate a 2.2% "Cash Releasing Efficiency Saving" from clinical services, and another 3% savings on corporate infrastructure budgets.

The cuts will pile extra pressure on services and front-line staff throughout SLAM, which is one of the country's largest mental health Trusts ... and which ended last year with its own accounts in the black.

Among the services under threat:

## Southwark

- Closure of the Ronnie Carr Annexe and Witley 2 at the Bethlem Hospital, delivering rehabilitation and special care services, with a loss of 15 beds, and merging services into a new "complex needs unit" – putting all jobs at risk.
- Merging four assertive outreach teams into one
- "Review skill mix" of locality services
- "Reduce demand" for specialist services

## Lambeth

- Closure of Dove House – an excellent specialist inpatient service for women established just two years ago with new money
- "Review" of Intensive Rehabilitation Services, closing one of the three units, Hopton Road – loss of 15 beds
- Home treatment teams for adult mental health face not only merger but a 30% overall reduction in staffing levels.
- Deletion of vacant posts in adult mental health and Forensics Out of Area Treatment team.
- "Merger" of Greenvale and Knights Hill nursing homes, with one to close
- Possible 5% cut in HIV services

## Southwark & Lambeth

- Closure of the Emergency Clinic providing 24-hour care at the Maudsley – by October this year.
- "Merge" Job ward (Mental Health Older Adults) at Guy's with Elizabeth Ward (St Thomas's)
- "Rationalise" day care for older adults at the Felix Post Unit (Maudsley) and the Eamon Fotrell Day Hospital.

- Reduction in services and posts for the dual diagnosis service
- Reduction of posts in the addictions service, including Marina House
- Reduction of posts in community adult learning disability teams
- “Review” the use of adult learning disability beds
- “Review” the use of Cawley Centre – specialist day services
- Reduction in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.