



Manchester Community
& Mental Health Branch

●Manchester deserves better STOP THE PROPOSED CUTS TO FRONTLINE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

After years of under-funding, mental health services in Manchester are near breaking point. Staff are exhausted, working extra hours for no extra pay to try and support their clients. Now the Mental Health & Social Care Trust plans even more cuts—some are ‘recovery’ services which keep people well and out of hospital, some provide specialist psychological support not available elsewhere.

The threatened services:

Start and Studio 1 art for wellbeing

Green Wellbeing horticulture for wellbeing

Benchmark woodworking, carpentry, furniture

Individual Placement and Support to get jobs

Chronic Fatigue therapy for long term conditions

Psychosexual for people with sexual dysfunction

Specialist Service for Affective Disorders

Perinatal Liaison Nurse

These services have nearly 800 current service users or on waiting lists. For many people these services are the lifeline that keeps them out of more expensive hospital beds or community mental health teams. The cuts would have a devastating impact.

●Manchester deserves better

Mental health services—a national scandal,
a local crisis

Enquiry into mental health services

Manchester City Council, through its Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) is organising a day conference / enquiry into mental health services and funding in Manchester. It should be open to anyone who is interested. This follows an important success by UNISON Manchester Community & Mental Health Branch and Manchester User Network at a HSC meeting. Points raised by Ben Jackson, UNISON Branch Secretary, and Alan Hartman for MUN, were taken up by committee councillors. The outcome was a number of recommendations: to set up the conference/ enquiry; that Manchester Mental Health & Social Care Trust (MMHSCT) must supply more information about the proposed cuts within the context of the whole budget for mental health services and assessment of the impact on service users; and MMHSCT and commissioners were told they could not go ahead with the closures without a public consultation. This doesn't mean MMHSCT won't try to push through the cuts – but it does give time for us all to fight them.

Public Support

A wide range of organisations joined the UNISON branch at a public meeting on 7th November, to show support for the campaign for proper funding and better mental health services. Vicious austerity affects many Manchester people, and makes their mental and physical health worse. That's why disabled people, campaigners against welfare benefit cuts, organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers, anti-racist groups, and mental health campaigns in neighbouring areas all pledged to support the Manchester campaign.

The campaign will organise petitions, events, protests.
To get involved, or send messages of support, contact:
Ben Jackson, ben.jackson@mhsc.nhs.uk or
Caroline Bedale, c.bedale@btinternet.com

Check the UNISON branch website for information: www.mcmh.org.uk
Follow the campaign on www.facebook.com/unisonmcmh
Sign the petition www.change.org—**Manchester deserves better**

●Manchester deserves better

Mental health services—a national scandal,
a local crisis

Enquiry into mental health services

Manchester City Council, through its Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) is organising a day conference / enquiry into mental health services and funding in Manchester. It should be open to anyone who is interested. This follows an important success by UNISON Manchester Community & Mental Health Branch and Manchester User Network at a HSC meeting. Points raised by Ben Jackson, UNISON Branch Secretary, and Alan Hartman for MUN, were taken up by committee councillors. The outcome was a number of recommendations: to set up the conference/enquiry; that Manchester Mental Health & Social Care Trust (MMHSCT) must supply more information about the proposed cuts within the context of the whole budget for mental health services and assessment of the impact on service users; and MMHSCT and commissioners were told they could not go ahead with the closures without a public consultation. This doesn't mean MMHSCT won't try to push through the cuts – but it does give time for us all to fight them.

Public Support

A wide range of organisations joined the UNISON branch at a public meeting on 7th November, to show support for the campaign for proper funding and better mental health services. Vicious austerity affects many Manchester people, and makes their mental and physical health worse. That's why disabled people, campaigners against welfare benefit cuts, organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers, anti-racist groups, and mental health campaigns in neighbouring areas all pledged to support the Manchester campaign.

The campaign will organise petitions, events, protests.
To get involved, or send messages of support, contact:
Ben Jackson, ben.jackson@mhsc.nhs.uk or
Caroline Bedale, c.bedale@btinternet.com

Check the UNISON branch website for information: www.mcmh.org.uk
Follow the campaign on www.facebook.com/unisonmcmh
Sign the petition www.change.org—**Manchester deserves better**