



Better together:
Building better local mental health services and support
Tell us what you think

1. Introduction

- In September we told you that we, the Corner House Board of Trustees (who are responsible for running the Corner House service) have decided not to appoint a new Director straight away. This is because we want to take the opportunity that has been created by Jackie leaving to explore whether merging with the charity Coastal West Sussex Mind (who are another local mental health charity) would deliver better services and support for local people with mental health problems and Corner House service users.
- We told you that the Board will be doing a lot of work over the next few months to carefully consider this and part of looking closely at this will be asking Corner House service users, staff and other stakeholders what they think about it.
- This document, therefore, explains why we are considering changing the way the Corner House is managed and asks you to tell us what you think about it.

2. Background – How things run at the moment and what we are proposing

- At the moment CWSX Mind and Shoreham District Mental Health Association (who run The Corner House) are 2 different charities.
- The proposal we are considering would be that Shoreham District Mental Health Association would become part of Coastal West Sussex Mind and together we would continue to run the Corner House service alongside the other services currently run by Coastal West Sussex Mind.

3. Why we are considering this

- Both charities have worked closely together for many years because we provide very similar services which are local to each other.
- Because of this our staff and managers have always worked together closely and the development of the Pathfinder Alliance has meant that this has increased.
- In addition, because both of our charities are mainly funded by the NHS through the same Pathfinder Alliance contract both of us will have to develop and change our services to some extent over time to fit in with this new Pathfinder development. So, our services are likely to become even more similar.
- The Corner House is a very small charity and being involved in Pathfinder has meant we have had to put more staff time and resource into management business rather than service provision and we need to consider whether this is the best use of our funding.

4. What we think the benefits of making this change would be

We see that the possible benefits of merging with CWSX Mind could be:

- The provision of the Corner House service under the management of a larger organisation could deliver management efficiencies which could increase the amount of mental health support offered. Staff could have more time to focus on mental health support and less on management and administration.
- Local people and service users in Adur could benefit from the expertise which Coastal West Sussex Mind has developed about working with families, young people and anti-stigma work. There is the potential for this expertise to be widened into Corner House services. As well as this we think it will also be easier for Corner House service users to access CWSX Mind services particularly in Worthing. For example we know there will be a new provision in Worthing Town Centre next year which some service users and local people could benefit from.
- We think we could be stronger and more effective together – There is less risk of service closure or reduction if staff are absent or leave as we would be able to draw on a wider pool of staff. CWSX Mind are a larger charity and have more up to date information and systems which we will be able to use which could improve how we work with and communicate with people using our services and also provide support.

5. What are the concerns about this proposal and how would these be managed?

Although as trustees we are strongly supportive of this partnership we also recognise that some people may have concerns. We have been identifying what these could be and discussing how they would be addressed if we were to proceed:

Worry/Concern	How this would be addressed
<p>The Corner House service might close</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Pathfinder there is a contract for the Corner House service which will continue and would be transferred to CWSX Mind if this merger goes ahead - While there is a contract and funding for the service we are confident the service will continue. If the contract ends then we couldn't continue to run the service in the medium and long-term anyway. • The new CWSX Mind Board will include some of the Corner House trustees and will also want to recruit a new service user trustee from the Corner House. This will ensure that there is strong representation about Corner House interests on the Board.
<p>The Corner House services might change or be reduced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is always the possibility of change even if the Corner House continues to manage the service itself. For example - There could be changes which are required through the new Pathfinder contract; a new Corner House Director could decide to make changes. • Some change over time is always inevitable but some of the current trustees of the Corner House will be part of the Board of CWSX Mind and they will have a say about all key decisions which impact on running the Corner House. There could also be positive changes which will make the service better - Less money on management costs could mean more money spent on support, also there could be some other good opportunities which happen through a merger.
<p>We want to keep the name of the service as – The Corner House</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want this too and CWSX Mind have agreed that the building will continue to be called the Corner House and that it will be included alongside the CWSX Mind brand in any publicity about the service.

<p>We don't like CWSX Mind services – They are different to ours – We wouldn't want to use them and we are worried they will try and change our service to be like theirs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pathfinder contract means that all services in Pathfinder have to provide broadly similar services so both the Corner House and CWSX Mind services in Pathfinder have to ensure they are doing this. • The CWSX Mind Worthing service has changed a lot over the last few years and is much more similar to our Corner House service than a few years ago. The CWSX Mind Worthing staff are really happy for service users and staff to visit and see this for themselves if they would like to. Visits can be arranged by contacting the CWSX Mind Worthing service manager. • CWSX Mind also have plans to develop some new services in Worthing next year which they can also tell you about.
<p>We're worried that staff will be affected/might lose their jobs/might change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As we will be continuing to run the Corner House service then jobs will have protection under the Transfer of Undertaking of Employment (TUPE) if this goes ahead. • Staff will make their own choices and decisions around whether they want to accept a transfer but we hope they will want to move to the new organisation and that therefore there will not be significant staff changes.

6. Tell us what you think

We want you to tell us what you think about our proposal. You can do this by filling in the survey form on the next page and returning it to:

Better Together Survey
 C/O Coastal West Sussex Mind
 The Gateway
 8-10 Durrington Lane
 Worthing
 WestSussex
 BN132QG

Alternatively, you can do this survey on-line by using the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LLG83S8>

The closing date for completing the survey is Friday 23rd November 2018.

7. Next steps

The Boards of trustees of both Boards will complete all of their exploration by the end of December and will then consider all of the evidence (including the findings of this survey) to support making a decision in January.

Finally - We know that the thought of any change can be worrying. Please do talk to a member of staff if you are worried.

Better together survey: Tell us what you think....

Are you?	Please tick
A Corner House Service User?	
A CWSX Mind Service User?	
A carer of someone using the Corner House?	
A carer of someone using CWSX Mind services?	
A Corner House member of staff?	
A CWSX Mind member of staff?	
A Corner House Volunteer?	
A CWSX Mind volunteer?	
A Corner House Trustee?	
A CWSX Mind trustee?	
Another mental health service provider?	
A funder or commissioner of services?	
Another interested party/stakeholder?	

Questions

What do you think is positive about our proposal for the Corner House to become part of CWSX Mind?

What concerns or worries you about our proposal for the Corner House to become part of CWSX Mind?

Do you have any ideas or suggestions of things we can do to address your concerns?

Is there anything else you would like to say about our proposal?

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