

**rethink**

# **a cut too far**

**a Rethink report into budget cuts affecting  
mental health services**

**May 2006**

# Introduction

*“As a user of mental health services I am extremely worried... I had a relapse earlier this year and was not admitted to hospital due to lack of beds.”*

**Service User, Cambridgeshire**

The last financial year (April 2005-06) was a difficult year for those using and working in health services. Some NHS Trusts faced huge deficits and details of cuts to services hit the headlines. The effect on mental health services, according to service users and carers, has been particularly acute, but less well publicised.

According to the Institute for Public Policy Research and Rethink, mental health trusts are generally below the standards of the average health trust<sup>1</sup>. The Healthcare Commission performance ratings for 2004 revealed that mental health trusts have the lowest number of three and two star trusts and the highest number of no star trusts, compared with acute, Primary Care Trusts specialist trusts and ambulance trusts. Mental health Trusts often cited funding constraints as causes for their difficulties.

And yet there have been huge developments in mental health services since 1999 following the National Service Framework for Mental Health in that year and the NHS Plan in 2002. New services, such as early intervention and crisis resolution teams, have supported a number of people through

a crisis and helped a number of crises to be avoided. However, there is real concern that these specialised services are being delivered at the expense of other services that would help other people who do not fall into the criteria for these particular specialisms.

*“...what struck us all straight away was the fact that the mental health services, whose budget was not in deficit, were going to have to contribute to the overall deficit of the healthcare Trust in order to reduce this.”* **Carer, Cornwall**

The introduction of new services – “reconfiguration” – into areas with already overstretched budgets puts mental health trusts under even more pressure, and our campaign has so far uncovered over £30m cuts in over 30 areas in England. With the Health Select Committee recently announcing the launch of its own inquiry into NHS deficits, little new health money in the recent Budget and future funding increases under doubt as the Comprehensive Spending Review looms in 2007, there is real concern that mental health will again live up to its name as the Cinderella of the NHS.

**Report author: Lucy Widenka**

<sup>1</sup> Rankin, R (2005) *Mental Health in the Mainstream*. Institute for Public Policy Research, London

# Background to our campaign

In November 2005, Rethink began hearing about worrying cuts to mental health services around the country. Service users, carers and staff began alerting us to plans that suggested health trusts were targeting mental health services in order to 'plug' gaps in their wider budgets as the financial year was coming to a close.

*"...patients and carers will have to travel much longer distances for treatment and visiting, for prolonged periods in many cases, and damaging upheaval and stress is being caused by the enforced change of psychiatrists and Community Psychiatric Nurses."* **Carer, Buckinghamshire**

Rethink responded by gathering as much evidence as possible from our networks to start building a picture of what was happening on the ground. We contacted the Department of Health and Louis Appleby, National Director for Mental Health, demanding an urgent investigation into the situation. Individual MPs were briefed and many helped to pursue the matter directly with the ministers in the Department of Health and made efforts to find out the situation in their particular constituency.

As a result, the Department of Health contacted 28 Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Finance Directors asking for specific information about their financial situation. The results were announced in a parliamentary debate on mental health services in February 2006.

Twenty Strategic Health Authorities reported no reductions to planned expenditure on mental health services; the remaining eight reported that there would be reductions in planned expenditure affecting 11 out of 84 mental health trusts in England. Those trusts had planned to spend £894 million in this financial year, and they are reducing their planned expenditure by a total of £16.5 million – that is 2 per cent of the total.

*"Of course, in the light of the extra investment that we have made, we would prefer it if there were no planned reduction in expenditure. However, I hope that I can assure right hon. and hon. Members that strategic health authorities are working with those trusts to minimise any impact on patient services."* **Rosie Winterton, Minister of State for Health Services, February 2006**

However, these "official" figures do not sufficiently address the real fears and problems service users, carers and those working on the ground in mental health services are experiencing. Nor do they account for the widespread experience of reduced services being experienced by people on the frontline – and not do they take account of more cuts planned for the current financial year.

*"Management will not say there will be cuts. The term used is modernisation."* **Carer, Worcester**

## Our evidence

The following are details of the 'real' picture that we have been attempting to draw from evidence given by those service users and carers who are directly affected by any cuts in services. This is just a snapshot of their experience on the ground.

It is the responsibility of government to take seriously any evidence of cuts and act appropriately to prevent the negative impact they have on those using services and their carers – and on the government's long-term mental health reform programme.

Date	Budget Cut Area	How Much?	Where cuts from?	Source
08/12/05	Cambridgeshire	Proposed £3m cuts. To include closure of acute ward. <i>“As a user of mental health services I am extremely worried. If I have a relapse I may be offered the home treatment service instead of hospital admission. This would not be acceptable as I suffer from recurrent suicidal thoughts and high levels of agitation. I would put myself at risk by e.g. running into the road and wandering the streets in a distraught state. My mum has used the equivalent home treatment service in Derby and she saw someone for 5mins twice a day - she said this was ‘useless’. I had a relapse earlier this year and was not admitted to hospital due to lack of beds. I was cared for at home by my partner. He had to take time off work. He found caring for me very stressful and it had a negative impact on him as he has his own mental health problems.”</i>	Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire PCTs.  Cambridgeshire MHT to have £3m.	
	Cheshire	Intensive psychiatric ward (approx. eight beds) and occupational centre called Catherine House have been closed.		Service users CPN
26/10/05	Suffolk	Proposed closure of mental health day hospitals and clubhouses, such as Stowmarket’s Fox Yard.  £5m proposed cuts, including Older People’s Mental Health Day Hospitals, The Pines Occupational Therapy Day service at St. Clements Hospital, Clubhouses in Ipswich and Stowmarket, The Hollies Employment Service on the St Clements Hospital site, loss of rehabilitation beds in housing scheme.	Suffolk PCTs	Local media – <a href="http://www.burystedmunds.com">www.burystedmunds.com</a>  PCT and Suffolk Mental Health NHS Partnership Trust consultation
25/11/05	Peterborough	Ceasing all nursing and administrative staff bank and agency usage with effect from 14 November 2005; ceasing use of medical agency locums with effect from 14 November 2005.	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.	Mental Health Trust Briefing, November
30/11/05	Camden	Possible deficit this coming year of £5m, no details yet of proposed cuts.		The Camden Bugle, April 2005
26/10/05	Oxfordshire	Proposed cuts of £1.65m financial year 2005 - 2006. Cut of 30% to Supporting People budget from £2.6m to £1.9m for mental health by March 2006, with further cuts anticipated in 2006, 2007 and 2009.		Mental Health Trust
02/11/05	Isle of Wight	Local government proposal for no increase above inflation for Council Tax, leading to possible cuts of £1m in a year.		Local Carers Group

03/11/05	Nottingham	<p>Unspecified mental health cuts as part of £22.7m cuts package covering the city's PCTs – Rethink crisis telephone service in region may be affected.</p> <p>Proposed cuts of £1,951,627 to Nottingham Community Housing Association (mental health patients and patients with learning difficulties).</p>	<p>Nottingham Primary Care Trust</p> <p>NHS Managers to review this funding (total amount £6m.)</p>	<p>Nottingham Evening Post, 28 July 2005</p>
18/10/05	Westmorland	<p>Proposed cuts to involve closure of two mental health wards at Westmorland general hospital in Kendal – ward 2 for elderly mental health patients, and ward 4 for adult patients with mental health difficulties.</p>		<p>Hansard – 18 October 2005, Adjournment debate</p>
03/11/05	Somerset	<p>Potential cuts to Somerset partnership social care budget for mental health. Supporting People are £193,000 in deficit, and are looking at floating support services.</p> <p>A further 5% decrease in Supporting People is anticipated.</p>		<p>Personal contact with Partnership</p>
	Devon	<p>Proposed decommissioning of Rethink Accommodation Plus service – one of 6 being decommissioned.</p>	<p>Clarification on affected mental health services needed.</p>	
03/11/05	Suffolk	<p>Additional Cash Release Efficiency Savings (CRES) of £1.3m recently agreed with major commissioners for the last financial year. This is on top of £2.9m reductions in Financial Recovery Plan agreed by the board in March 05, which includes closures being consulted upon of 2 clubhouses and a large employment service, The Hollies.</p>	<p>Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust</p>	<p>Trust public board reports, East Anglian Daily Times, other local media</p>
24/11/05	South West London	<p>SW London and St Georges Mental Health Trust have made the following cuts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Yew ward (Wandsworth) has been closed. Patients who would have gone there now go to the Merton Wards (Jupiter and Seacole)106% occupancy.</li> <li>• The Bluebell ward previously women only is now mixed though men and women are separated inside the ward.</li> <li>• The Drug Addictions ward has been closed.</li> <li>• The inpatient provision for eating disorders has closed.</li> <li>• The inpatients children's unit in Sutton - Stepping Stones has closed. Each Community Mental Health team has to save £20,000 - there are 7 of these in Wandsworth and 4 in each of the other boroughs.</li> </ul>	<p>South West London and St Georges Mental Health Trust</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2 Day Hospitals in Wandsworth are closing – Parkgate and the Cottage Day Hospital.</li> <li>• A Day resource centre in Sutton has closed.</li> <li>• The Rehabilitation and Assertive Outreach teams have merged. OT-there is now one PT OT technician on the Merton Wards instead of a fulltime occupational therapist.</li> <li>• Cuts to nursing staff – each ward in the Trust now has only two professionally qualified nurses on duty in a ward at any one time – the rest of the staff are health care assistants.</li> </ul> <p>The Principal Clinical Psychologist for the Trust says cuts are being made to the number of psychologists but we do not know the details.</p>		
08/12/05	Durham	<p>Durham Adult Health and Social Care Trust – CMHT budgets are overspent, and if people want to access direct payments, there is not enough money for them to do so.</p> <p>Durham Priority Services NHS Trust – Specialist psychiatric mother and baby beds in West Park hospital are reverting to acute beds – meaning that people needing to access them have to travel to Morpeth in Northumberland. This is because the trust cannot afford to employ specialist staff to support the beds at West Park.</p>		Meeting with the Board
01/12/05	Cambridgeshire	<p>2 largest PCTs have withheld £91,000 of centrally funded initiative money earmarked for the 10% uplift 2005-6 that the Young Persons Psychiatric Service – a transition service for 16 - 25 year olds. Threat of being cut to skeletal 2 staff to help 17-19 year olds in transition; immediate effects include psychiatrists no longer being able to refer transition cases to that service.</p>	PCTs	Local psychiatrist
13/12/05	Worcester	<p>The Mental Health Partnership – proposal of £3m cuts, of which £1.75m is from adult services.</p> <p><i>“Management will not say there will be cuts. The term used is modernisation. A lot of re-organisation, day services, a hostel and 18 beds will go. Changes are out to consultation but the foregone conclusion is less inpatient and mover community support – which we wait to see. Users and Carers being consulted.”</i></p>		Member of Partnership Board

08/12/05	Lambeth	Proposed cuts of £200,000 with closure of Maudsley Emergency Clinic. Closure of South London & Maudsley acute ward.  There is another £4 million of cuts to come as two local PCTs reduce spending.	South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	Local Committee Meetings
29/12/05	Various	Cuts appear to be happening in Mental Health Trusts around visiting posts. Concerns that as a result, post natal depression will not be picked up as health visitors will have too many cases.	Health Visitors	
31/12/05	Fulbourn, Cambridge	£3m needs to be saved in total, unit where staff member works due for closure.		Consultation Meetings
08/02/06	East Sussex	£300,000 from county council budget has been cut.	East Sussex County Council	Local newspaper reporting, ESCC informed are management only 3 weeks before decision to be approved
07/02/06	Sussex	Continual reduction of psychiatric inpatient beds. 2 respite centres have closed. Meadowfield Hospital (Worthing) secure ward closed and moved to St Richards (Chichester).	Worthing Priority Care NHS Trust	
27/01/06	East Sussex	Crossroads, Care for the Carers, E.Sussex Vision Care and Rethink and Together voluntary groups have funding cut.  Eight day centres reviewed. Three to close in Rye, Eastbourne and Peacehaven.	East Sussex County Council	Hastings Today (27/01/06)
07/02/06	East Sussex	Proposed cuts to be rubber stamped on 21/02/06.  Proposed closure of Hastings SOS suicide prevention service.  Carers' Grant cut by £500,000. 3 Day Centre closures.	East Sussex County Council	Hastings and St Leonards Observer (03/02/06)
	East Sussex	Local press reporting cuts figures though no official notification.  Extra £8.3m for adult social care services in 06/07 East Sussex County Council budget but organisations still remain targeted for 'savings'.  Rethink SOS (Survivors of Suicide) cut now £50,000.  Sanctuary, a mental health crisis unit, to lose £24,000.	East Sussex County Council	Hastings and St Leonards Observer (24/02/06)  Staff Members

06/01/06	Buckinghamshire	Proposed closure of Elvaston Centre (inpatient rehabilitation centre) in High Wycombe. Services to be transferred to Mandalay House in Aylesbury where a new inpatient unit is to be developed.	Wycombe, Chilterns and South Bucks PCTs in partnership with the Buckinghamshire MHT	Bucks Free Press (28/12/05)
07/02/06	Suffolk	Daughter's residential care home in Cambridge going to close at the end of April 2006. Daughter funded by Suffolk.		
07/01/06	Suffolk	East Suffolk PCTs made 5% cut in charity funding in 2005/06. East Suffolk County Council proposed package of budget cuts, of which £14m will affect adult social care and community services.  East Suffolk Mind faces a shortfall of £200,000 in 06/07.	East Suffolk County Council – as a result of central funding	East Anglian Daily Times (07/01/06)
06/02/06 01/03/06	Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire	Cuts by Hertfordshire Partnership Trust £7.55 million, (Adult Mental Health Services £2.90m.)	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	Figures derived from various sources
06/02/06	London	Camden cut budget - £1.75m, closure of centre for chronically mentally ill. Decision to Judicial Review in High Court 21/22.02.06.	Camden Council	
06/01/06	Surrey and Sussex	Hospitals and PCTs heading towards collective deficit of £75m at the end of 05/06 financial year. Even if deficits reduced they will need £83m external support.	Surrey and Sussex Hospital Trust, Royal West Sussex and Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals. Clarification of Mental Health cuts needed.	Society Guardian (06/01/06)
14/12/05	Oxfordshire	Cherwell Ward (24 hour care), Fulbrook Centre proposed closure Christmas 2005. 17 patients to be moved elsewhere.	Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust	Letter informing patients sent on 07/12/2005
16/12/05	Somerset	Barrow Hospital to be closed, Summer 2006. 2 wards already closed.		BBC News (16/12/05)
Jan 06	Dorset	£92,000 cuts (Social Care and Health). In addition, North Dorset PCT, Rethink Early Intervention cuts total £20,000.	North Dorset Primary Care Trust	Local funders/ contract meetings
08/12/05	Havering, London	Closure of Duchess of Kent Day Hospital on 30/09/2006. New provision not to be put in place until 06/07 financial year.	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	Local MP
01/02/06	Buckinghamshire	Closure of inpatient hospital in Amersham by Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and Thames Valley SHA. Amalgamation of BMHT and OMHT.  Social services shortfall – plans to introduce charges for Day Services.	Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority  Social Services shortfall in Buckinghamshire County Council	Trust Board Member

13/02/06	Berkshire	£900,000 cuts 2006/7		Local media and in Berkshire MH User Group meeting minutes
19/01/06	Wandsworth, London	Cottage Day Hospital closure, November 2005. Services to be moved to newly opened unit.  Parkgate Hospital in Roehampton – proposals for closure.	South West London and St Georges Mental Health Trust	Christine Carter, Interim Chief Exec of SW London & St. George's MH NHS Trust. Wandsworth Borough News, 17/08/05.
19/01/06	Camden	Camden Council's proposed closure of Jamestown Day Centre (managed by New Directions Camden) in March 06. Closure gone to Judicial Review 21/22.02.06.	Camden Council	Emma Norton, employee of Bindman and Partners.
14/01/06	Bath	Hillview Lodge, Bath's main mental health unit on the Royal United Hospital site faces cuts in staff numbers and beds. Avon and Wiltshire Trust need to save £11m. Focus being shifted to home treatment and rehabilitation.	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust need to make an £11m saving.	The Bath Chronicle (14/01/06)
	Staffordshire	Closure of 'Assist' advocacy service at St. George's hospital due to close at the end of March 2006. Four PCTs fund this service, total of £24,000.	South Staffordshire PCTs	South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health
16/01/06	Hillingdon, London	Resignation of Sarah Pond, Chair of Hillingdon PCT. Financial predicament of PCT cited as one of the reasons she is leaving, £27.3m deficit end of 05/06 financial year predicted.		HSJ (16/02/2006)
17/02/06	Hull	All PCTs under North East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA budgets cut by 2%. Proposed funding for Rethink Carers Service – to increase support workers from 1 to 5 – probably now not available.  Current spend is 13.5% of allocation on mental health services. Cuts and levy could result in £1.8m loss to mental health funding.	North East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority  East and West Hull PCT	Hull Local Implementation Team (15/02/06)
07/01/06	Suffolk	Suffolk County Council cuts of £14m affecting adult social care and community services. East Suffolk Mind face shortfall of £200,000. Service supports 100+ and runs 4 resource centres.  Cannot run service with forecast budget cuts.	Suffolk County Council	East Anglian Daily Times (07/01/2006)
15/02/06	Somerset	£35,000 to Supported Housing services.		Meeting with Rethink

27/02/06	South Shields	£500,000 over next 12 months. South of Tyne and Wearside Rehabilitation Centre (8 beds) for people with enduring MH difficulties being closed.		Informed by Line Manager
17/02/06	Somerset	Proposed closure of residential home in Frome. Funded by Mendip NHS Trust and Somerset County Council.	Mendip NHS Trust and Somerset County Council – Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust.	Dan Norris MP
19/12/05	Morecambe	Secretary of State for Health to assess proposal by Morecambe PCT to close the MH wards it rents at Westmorland General Hospital.	Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust	Parliamentary Question (19/12/2005)
14/12/05	Cambridge	Financial crisis in MH services in Cambridge and other parts of UK. Department of Health to review funding formula to reflect mental health needs around England.		Early Day Motion 1265 put down on 14/12/2005. Update on 15/12/2005
07/03/06	Cornwall	Savings of £3.2m and new investment of £2.5m, leaving a deficit of £700,000.	Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	Local Carers' group meeting. Public Consultation paper by Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust
03/03/06	Suffolk	Closure programme by Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust going ahead. No figures stated.	Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust	East Anglian Daily Times (03/03/2006)
03/03/06	Ipswich, Suffolk	Proposed closure of Primary Intermediate Mental Health Service (PIMHS). Costs £420,000 per year to run.		Ipswich Evening Star (03/03/2006)
09/03/06	Lewes, East Sussex	East Sussex County Council no longer going to run Lewes Day Service, savings of £40,000. Voluntary or private sector provider being sought.		20/07/2005. Council report
08/03/06	St Albans, Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire Partnership Trust cuts of £4m this year and £6m next year. Loss of £3m from capital sales.	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	Update reports from HPT
20/03/06	St Albans, Hertfordshire	St Julians Ward, Abbey Ward and Deacon Ward at St Albans City Hospital to close. The only mental health inpatient facilities in the area. Patients have to move to Stevenage or Watford.	Hertfordshire NHS Trust	Official announcement. Carers Group meeting to organise local campaign
22/03/06	Oxfordshire	A reduction of at least £400,000 in the Supporting People budget for mental health. £1m savings targets required by	Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust	<a href="http://www.sos-oxon.org.uk/">www.sos-oxon.org.uk/</a>

		<p>Primary Care Trusts from the Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust.</p> <p>A further £5.3m of savings over 3 years required to break even.</p> <p>Another £1.7m of savings in this year required by Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority to make up for overspends in other parts of the NHS. These cuts represent around 10% of the Mental Healthcare Trust's budget for patient care, and at least 15% of the money for supported housing.</p> <p>Acute ward closures in South Oxfordshire and Banbury. Staff cuts. Up to 60 jobs could be lost including 15 psychiatrists - about 15% of the medical staff.</p> <p>Littlemore Resource Centre is threatened with closure (Day services).</p> <p>The Barnes Unit , John Radcliffe Hospital, psychiatric support to anyone arriving at A&amp;E services as a result of a suicide attempt or self-harm threatened with closure.</p>	<p>£1.7m required by Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority.</p>	
20/03/06	Staffordshire	North Staffordshire Trust needs to save £43m 2006-2008.	University Hospital of North Staffordshire Trust. Clarification of Mental Health services affected needed.	NHS Deficits Debate
20/03/06	Gloucestershire	£20m needed to be cut from Trust.	Clarification of Mental Health services affected needed	NHS Deficits Debate
20/03/06	Shropshire	Faces cuts due to £38m deficit.	Clarification of Mental Health services affected needed	NHS Deficits Debate
20/03/06	Selby and York	The PCT will have to cut £21m to break even in 2006/07.	Selby and York Primary Care Trust. Clarification of Mental Health services affected needed	NHS Deficits Debate
24/03/06	Camden and Islington, London	Closure of Whittingdon Day Hospital (Belle Ridley Day Hospital) in March 2006.		
24/03/06	London	<p>St Ann's Hospital, currently 8 psychiatric wards, to lose men's psychiatric ward and older people's mental health ward. Promised redevelopment possibly not going to happen.</p> <p>Possibility that acute wards to go and only intensive care to remain. PCT freezing recruitment CMHT to lose 1 team. Assertive outreach to be cut.</p>	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	Local press

04/04/06	London	In addition to the above Haringey to lose 3 male beds through ward reorganisation.	As Above	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey MH NHS Trust Financial Plans 05/06, Cost Improvement Programme and St Ann's Reorganisation Paper
27/03/06	Hertfordshire	Closure of ward, reduction of community health team staff. Mentioned in other evidence too.	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	www.watford3r-pct.nhs.uk/
28/03/06	Hertfordshire	<p>Cuts - Public Consultation (figures quoted are estimated net savings) St Julian's Ward closure (St Albans), loss of 22 beds. Saving of £1m.</p> <p>Direct Access psychology service, counselling for 110 people. Staff reduction to save £150k.</p> <p>Reduction of day services, lose 12 staff. Saving of £300k.</p> <p>Closure of early intervention in psychosis service, currently treating 30 people aged 16-25. Saving of £450k. Staff reduction in CMHTs, lose 8 staff, affect 14 teams county wide.</p> <p>Lister Acute Day Treatment Unit closure. Savings of £100k.</p> <p>Staff reductions in mental health inpatient therapies, dual diagnosis services (4 staff to go).</p> <p>Closure of Seward Lodge Day Care Unit (Hertford) – older people's MH service. Savings of £80k. Cuts – no public consultation</p> <p>Review of CMHTs, restructure from 12 to 8 teams, £160k saved.</p> <p>Hampden House (Hitchin), long term service users to be restructured. Savings of £200k.</p>	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	<p>www.watford3r-pct.nhs.uk/ Hertfordshire wide consultation 20/03 – 03/05</p> <p>BBC News Online 06/04/06</p>
30/03/06	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey, London	<p>Deficit of £8.4m. Savings of £3.35m identified. Already implemented a freeze on vacancies and training. No expansion of pilot Early Intervention in Psychosis Service. Identified savings:</p> <p><b>Barnet</b> Closure of Assertive Outreach Service. Posts in Directorate and Elderly Management to be reduced.</p>	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	Trust Board Papers 16/03/06

		<p><b>Enfield</b> Closure of Assertive Outreach Service. Closure of Somerset Villa. Rehabilitation Strategy.</p> <p><b>Haringey</b> Closure of Assertive Outreach Service. Closure of 1 Acute ward.</p>		
06/04/06	Somerset	<p>Reports that a new £6 million ten-bed mental health unit at Weston General Hospital will not open because the local NHS cannot afford the £500,000 a year that will be needed to pay the staffing costs.</p> <p>There are also reports that the Royal United Hospital in Bath is to cut 300 jobs to try to reduce its £13.2 million deficit.</p>	<p>Weston Area Health NHS Trust</p> <p>Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust</p>	The Times, The Sun, The Daily Mail, The Daily Express and The Daily Start
06/04/06	Hertfordshire	NHS Trust to cut MH services by over £5m due to £100m debts of overall health economy.	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	
06/04/06	South London	Maudsley Hospital to lose 24 hour walk-in clinic. Centre has 210 visits per month. Clinic to lose walk-in facility.	South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	The Big Issue
06/04/06	Camden, London	Jamestown day centre not to shut, Camden Council's decision overturned in the High Court.		Community Care
10/04/06	London	Chase Farm Hospital, to lose A&E. Consultation process been delayed by 5 months due to public opposition. EDM tabled against cuts by Enfield Southgate MP David Burrowes.	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust. Clarification on affect on mental health services needed	The Enfield Advertiser, 05/04/06
	Hertfordshire	St Julian's Ward closure. Work on new replacement facilities, on Hemel Hempstead Hospital site not going to start for 3-4 years.	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	Local newspaper (no title or date given)
13/04/06	Hertfordshire	Has set up a blog to record important meetings and provide links to documents.		<a href="http://www.herts-mh-crisis.blogspot.com">www.herts-mh-crisis.blogspot.com</a>
19/04/06	London	North Middlesex Hospital, 50 jobs could be lost. Need to save £15million over next 12 months.	Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust Clarification on affected mental health services needed	Hornsey and Crouch End Journal, Enfield Independent. 20/04/06
21/04/06	Suffolk	Cuts/closure of mental health outpatient units The Pines and The Hollies, at St Clements Hospital in Ipswich. Proposed closure of Bridge House, Ipswich, and Old Fox, Stowmarket, halfway houses for those with ongoing MH problems.	Suffolk Primary Care Trusts	Suffolk Evening Star, East Anglia Social Forum. <a href="http://www.easf.org.uk">www.easf.org.uk</a> Suffolk PCT Chief Exec Panel (date unknown)

23/04/06	Hertfordshire	Closure of 22 bed mental health ward due to savings being made by Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust.	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	
19/04/06	Sussex	58% of Mental Health Trusts' chief execs have had to close wards. 4/5 implemented recruitment freezes.		Health Service Journal
26/04/06	Norfolk	Norfolk and Waveney MH Trust Partnership. Recruitment freeze. Shortfall of £5.2m for 06/07. Plans to axe over 550 posts from hospitals overseen by Trust.	Norfolk and Waveney MH Trust Partnership	Norwich Evening News

## The future

The new budget year of 2006-7 sees new financial and accounting arrangements being introduced across the National Health Service. Trusts are being told to budget for a surplus this year – and not just break even. Payment by Results, an internal payment system designed to encourage money to follow the patient, will introduce a new level of financial instability into a system that historically has relied on predictable flows of money from pre-set block contracts. “Tariffs” – centrally set costs for a range of medical procedures – will benefit those trusts with low costs and place a new burden on those with higher costs.

Of course, mental health services are – for now – excluded from the payment by results and tariff systems, but that does not mean they will be unaffected. Just as in the last financial year of 2005-6, when the NHS looked to mental health as a “soft touch” to share the pain of deficits run up in physical health, so cash-strapped trusts that fail to get to grips with the new financial regime and its in-built instabilities, will again look to mental health spending to make up the difference.

But there are signs that mental health is no longer such a soft touch. Campaigners took to the streets in Cambridge and Oxford when mental health was threatened last year and across the country individuals raised the issue of local mental health cuts with their MPs and local media.

The very success of the government’s mental health reform programme is threatened by the cuts we have highlighted here. But it is a reform programme that has raised the expectations and aspirations of people using mental health services, their families and the people who work in them.

This year could well see mental health come of age – and stand up for itself as never before.

## Conclusion

Rethink and our networks are extremely concerned that the situation for mental health services will only get worse in the future if more is not done now. We must protect services that help support the most vulnerable members of society. Current increased investment in mental health and the broader NHS will not continue at its present rate and the government, trusts and all those involved in service provision need to work together to protect current services and safeguard them for the future.

*“Of course I am not happy when you have good, financially prudent mental health services and they are predicting financial balance and good financial management and then because of problems somewhere else in the NHS they have to find extra money.”* **Professor Louis Appleby, National Director for Mental Health, April 2006**

We are therefore calling on the Department of Health to take action and to do so as a matter of priority. This must include:

- An assurance from both government and trusts that mental health remains a key health priority both at a national and local level
- The government must order an urgent investigation into all potential budget cuts it is alerted to, including those included in this report
- The government and Trusts must work together to develop an emergency plan to overcome the funding crisis.

# Who are we?

Rethink is the UK's leading mental health membership charity. We were founded over thirty years ago to give a voice to all those affected by severe mental illness and today, with over 8,000 members, we remain determined that this voice continues to be heard.

## Join Rethink

If you're affected by severe mental illness and would like information, help, support or advice and if you share our vision of fairer, more enlightened mental health care fit for the 21st Century, we want you to join us.

Joining Rethink is easy.

Apply online at: [www.rethink.org/join](http://www.rethink.org/join)  
or call 0845 456 0455.

Please join us today.

Together we make people Rethink.

If you would like to make a donation please make cheques payable to Rethink, FREEPOST SEA 6772, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1BR or call 0845 456 0455 with your credit or debit card details.

## Publications

Rethink produces a wide range of publications and videos on mental illness, including a local campaigns toolkit.

To find out more or to order materials please visit [www.rethink.org/publications](http://www.rethink.org/publications) or call 0845 456 0455.

We would be very interested to hear your views about this leaflet. Please send your comments to [info@rethink.org](mailto:info@rethink.org). Thank you.

# rethink

**Working together to help everyone  
affected by severe mental illness  
recover a better quality of life**

Rethink Campaigns and Communications  
5th Floor Royal London House  
22-25 Finsbury Square  
London EC2A 1DX

Phone 0845 456 0455  
Email [media@rethink.org](mailto:media@rethink.org)

For further information on Rethink  
Phone 0845 456 0455  
Email [info@rethink.org](mailto:info@rethink.org)  
[www.rethink.org](http://www.rethink.org)



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Registered Office 28 Castle Street, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1SS.  
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