

Improving mental health inpatient facilities in Derby

There are a wide range of mental health services currently provided throughout the city of Derby and wider county of Derbyshire. Given the increasing demand for mental health support, a number of conversations are underway about how the requirements of the Five Year Forward View will be implemented locally. This includes potential changes and developments to both community and inpatient mental health services.

This paper focuses on local inpatient (hospital based) mental health services and our collective plans to improve the local facilities we currently have available, through national funding that has been identified to ensure that the services provided locally are able to meet national requirements

The plans outlined in this paper are an exciting opportunity to transform the facilities we currently have available in the city, bringing local mental health inpatient services in line with national expectations and the services that are already provided across most other areas in the UK.

The case for change

Acute mental health services in Derby and Derbyshire are provided by Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. At present we have two acute inpatient services for adults of working age: the Radbourne Unit in Derby (based on the Royal Derby Hospital site) and the Hartington Unit in Chesterfield (based on the Chesterfield Royal Hospital site). Both units provide care from dormitory style facilities, with approximately four beds within a bay.

In recent years the Trust has identified that the current estate from which acute mental health services are provided at both sites does not comply with current regulatory and legislative requirements. In their visits to the Trust the CQC (Care Quality Commission) has also given the Trust actions to improve its estate. Given the significant level of investment required, these changes cannot be funded by the local health care system. Therefore this substantial national investment must be taken forwards to ensure national requirements are met across our services in Derbyshire.

National policy outlines the following 'must do' improvements:

- Mental health wards should be built to consist of single rooms, each with an en-suite bathroom
- No one should need to travel outside of their local area to receive acute mental health care.

The current situation

Derby and Derbyshire is one of a very small number of local areas who cannot currently meet the national requirements outlined above. Given this, Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, with support from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have raised the need for national investment with NHS England and Improvement.

At the point of writing the Trust has received a small level of investment to develop our business cases to meet these national requirements. Should these business cases be

accepted at a national level, we can expect to receive substantial funding to put these plans in place.

It is important to note that once approval is granted, we will need to work at pace to implement the changes required. At a national level the expectation is that these changes are made quickly, to improve privacy and dignity and the overall patient experience of people receiving inpatient care for their acute mental health needs.

The conversations taking place at a national level focus on re-providing both the adult acute inpatient accommodation at the Radbourne Unit *and* the Hartington Unit. However, this paper focuses on the Radbourne Unit, as this will be the first component of the estates programme to commence, given a potential solution has been identified within the Trust's own facilities.

Current inpatient mental health services in Derby

The Radbourne Unit comprises 90 acute inpatient beds across four 20 bedded wards for men and women, plus a 10 bed Enhanced Care Ward (ECW) which provides a slightly higher level of clinical support. This is necessary as there is no Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in the county, to support local people with the most acute mental health needs.

Currently people who need a greater level of support than can be offered at the Radbourne Unit have to travel outside of the area to access an appropriate bed. Whilst every effort is made to identify a place as close to home as possible, given the demand for these places, people can sometime have to travel a substantial distance. This is clearly not ideal for the patient or the important contact and support that can often be found in regular interaction and visits from family and friends.

At the time of writing, we had 14 local people receiving out of area PICU care. This is a relatively consistent number and we need a service in Derbyshire to provide local care to people.

There are regularly a small number of adults who receive acute inpatient care outside of Derbyshire, due to no beds being available at either of the two local units.

Outlining our plans

Over recent years the Trust has sought professional external advice about how the current facilities at the Radbourne Unit can be redeveloped in order to meet national requirements. The conclusion is that this is not possible. Providing single en-suite accommodation requires significantly larger premises than those available at the Radbourne Unit.

If the service was to remain on the current site, the number of beds available would need to significantly decrease. This is not an option as demand for acute mental health beds remains to be high and any reduction in the number of beds available would lead to an increase in out of area placements for acute mental health care – which would also go against national legislation.

The only option therefore is to create a new unit, on an alternative site.

Derbyshire Healthcare provides wider inpatient services for older adults, forensic patients and bedded rehabilitation services. The vast majority of these services are currently provided at the Kingsway Hospital site in Derby.

Kingsway Hospital is one mile away from the Radbourne Unit in Derby – less than four minutes by car and many people often walk between the two sites. The site benefits from green space and a number of wider facilities for patients and their families including free car parking, a restaurant and a multi-faith chapel. An area has been identified at the back of the Kingsway Hospital site that could accommodate a new facility that would provide 96* single en-suite rooms for our acute adult patients, plus the additional therapy and recreational space that would be required.

This is the only possible site that has been identified and would provide a number of benefits:

- Consolidation of mental health inpatient services on one site that is already use for mental health care
- Additional land is available to build a new PICU on the same site
- This brings specialist staff closer together
- Aids potential 'step up step down' between the different services on the site.

No beds would be lost in this development. It is an overwhelmingly positive move, to ensure local people have access to the best possible facilities. This development would meet the national legislative requirements and provide purpose built facilities for local people, improving privacy and dignity and the overall patient experience.

*Whilst the new unit would provide a minimum of 90 beds, the project team are currently working on the assumption of providing 96 beds, which would be an overall increase of six acute inpatient beds for Derby.

Derbyshire Healthcare has committed to fund the development of a 12 bedded PICU on the Kingsway Hospital site, to meet the additional legislation regarding out of area placements. It is anticipated that this build will take place alongside the acute inpatient facility

Similar developments have previously take place in other parts of the country and in our initial planning we have been seeking advice on how these units have been developed.

Example images show what our new facilities could look like:



The importance of engagement

Once funding has been agreed, it is clear we will need to move at speed to make sure we do not lose this opportunity for local people. The provision of central funding is linked to expenditure spend by 2023/24 – making it very tight to achieve such a development within this time period.

We would like to seek the HOSC's support for these ambitious plans and also the development of a programme of engagement to run alongside the development, in place of an initial single option public consultation. We believe this would be increasingly meaningful for people who use our services, and would not delay the start of the programme.

This is an overwhelmingly positive development and would greatly enhance the acute mental health care currently providing in the city. There is no change in service scope and there will be no loss of service – instead, local people will benefit from additional mental health service being offered locally and through modern, fit for purpose accommodation. The travel sensitivity has also been addressed by the closeness of the proposed site.

We intend to work alongside current and former patients, their carers and service user representatives to shape the development, making sure the new facilities being developed meet their needs and preferences. We shall also engage with wider internal and external stakeholders and liaise with the HOSC throughout this process.

Similar plans are also being scoped for patients in the north of the county, although a potential site has not yet been identified to re-provide the Hartington Unit.