

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 10 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposals by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust to relocate its adult community mental health service and its older persons' community mental health service in Charnwood from their current bases (at Town Hall Chambers, Loughborough and Cameron Stastny House, Loughborough respectively) to Loughborough Hospital.

Background

2. LPT's adult community mental health team for Charnwood, based at Town Hall Chambers, is the main point of access to non-acute secondary care mental health services for adults referred from primary care by Charnwood GPs. Service users can also be referred by other health professionals in LPT and they can self-refer.
3. The Charnwood community mental health team for older people, based at Cameron Stastny House, provides interventions for patients of any age with a complex presentation of dementia, or to people aged 65 and older with complex functional illnesses.
4. Both services are currently based in leased premises which are no longer fit for purpose. The facilities, which are leased by LPT, urgently need major improvements to bring them up to acceptable standards to ensure LPT meets its duty of ensuring services are safe, effective and provide privacy and dignity for service users.
5. Issues include (outlined in detail in the engagement document attached with this report):
 - (a) **at Town Hall Chambers:**
 - Poor air quality;
 - Cramped waiting rooms with poor heating/ventilation and poor privacy for service users;
 - Absence of access for people with disabilities via the main entrance;
 - Absence of lifts;
 - Lack of space for therapeutic activities or equipment storage and a shortage of clinic space;

(b) at Cameron Stastny House:

- Poor air circulation;
 - Small rooms spaces which compromise access for service users and carers who have wheelchairs or walking frames;
 - Poor acoustics in waiting rooms which make private conversation difficult and potentially compromise patient confidentiality;
 - Limited parking.
 - Work to identify more suitable alternative accommodation has been underway for a number of years. The lease arrangements for both sites had to be extended after the original terms had expired.
7. In 2012 LPT looked at the possibility of transferring the services to the former 'Walk-in Centre' on Woodgate in Loughborough. The building however was not large enough to meet the needs of staff and service users.
8. Despite extensive research, the Trust has been unable to identify any other alternative base that supports the clinical, accessibility, environmental as well as privacy and dignity needs of the service.

Proposals/Options

9. The Trust is proposing to move both services from their current bases to a newly refurbished and reconfigured clinical base at Loughborough Hospital on Epinal Way.
10. LPT is proposing to invest in refurbishment of the former Woodhouse Day Hospital at the site, to provide modern, single-storey clinical facilities with direct access from the car park (which affords free on-site parking) and with modern consulting rooms, facilities for group therapy sessions, full wheelchair access, dedicated reception area and updated waiting room facilities.
11. The Trust believes the proposed upgrade work will create a modern working environment for staff which will support their ability to provide high quality care, helping to provide a service that can meet both the current and the future needs of people with mental health needs in a setting that provides them with privacy and dignity.

Consultation

12. LPT has embarked on a five-week engagement programme as part of its commitment to engage and involve service users, staff and stakeholders, as well as the wider community in developing and providing patient-centred care.. The aim is to inform and invite feedback on the proposals.
13. The engagement programme opened on 11 May and runs until 17 June. A communications and engagement plan was devised to support this programme of work, including:
- (a) Five drop-in sessions (three for public and staff, two staff engagement sessions);

- (b) Stakeholder briefings and engagement documents sent directly via email to key stakeholders, including:
 - Commissioners,
 - Healthwatch,
 - GPs,
 - Scrutiny committee,
 - Local and national advocacy groups,
 - Relevant third sector organisations,
 - other NHS providers at Loughborough Hospital;
 - (c) Direct letters to service users;
 - (d) An engagement document has been printed, circulated, and published online. An Easy Read version of the document and a feedback form available on request have been developed,;
 - (e) Media release to local press and radio;
 - (f) Divisional and Trust-wide briefings to all LPT staff;
 - (g) Internal publications article sent to stakeholder communications departments;
 - (h) Information on the LPT website home page and in the news section;
 - (i) Frequent social media updates;
 - (j) Posters and engagement documents displayed at two bases and Loughborough Hospital.
14. Feedback can be provided in a number of ways, via post (Freepost address provided), telephone, email and in person as well as anonymously via Survey Monkey.

Summary and conclusion

15. LPT has been working since 2012 to identify suitable alternative accommodation within the NHS estate for its community mental health services for adults and older people in Charnwood however no alternative has been found. The services currently housed in leased accommodation cannot meet the needs of service users or staff in order to support quality, patient-centred care and a positive patient experience neither now, nor in the future as demand for these services continues to grow.
16. The Trust is proposing to relocate the services to Loughborough Hospital as part of its commitment to provide quality services in appropriate settings. Currently no other alternative suitable premises have been identified to help overcome the pressing issues identified within both team bases – Town Hall Chambers and Cameron Stastny House.
17. LPT is carrying out a programme of engagement with service users, carers, commissioners and other stakeholders, staff and the wider public to gather feedback on the proposals.

18. LPT is inviting comments and questions from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Background papers

Engagement Document is attached

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List of Appendices

Proposed Relocation of Charnwood Adult and Older People's Community Mental Health Teams to Loughborough Hospital.

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

The Trust has undertaken a Due Regard assessment of the proposed relocation programme