

Relocation of Delius and Elgar Mental Health Wards

Mid Surrey Assessment and Treatment Unit, Epsom General Hospital

Strategic Context

Earlier this year we commenced engagement with stakeholders, including people who use our services, carers, commissioners and the HOSC, on the future of our mental health hospital facilities for the communities of north west, mid and east Surrey. This work is part of our Mental Health Hospital Redevelopment Programme and follows on from the first phase of this programme which resulted in our new hospital at Farnham Road Hospital, Guildford which opened in December 2015.

To date our discussions have informed the development of a draft Strategic Outline Case (SOC) with a long list of potential options for where our second new facility should be. This was discussed at our Board meeting in public in October 2016. The next steps for this work will be wider consultation and engagement led by our CCG commissioners which will help to test the potential locations and enable us to identify the optimum option to take forward. We expect these discussions to commence in the New Year. We anticipate that it will take c.5 years for us to realise our ambition for the new hospital.

Introduction

In recognition of the time it will take to achieve our second hospital we have been considering what we can do now to improve the quality (safety, experience, effectiveness and value for money) of our current inpatient facilities. As part of this work we have concluded that the environment at Delius and Elgar wards at the Mid Surrey Assessment and Treatment Centre on the Epsom Hospital site no longer enables us to provide the type of surroundings we want people to experience when we help them in their recovery. We feel the surroundings are not in line with our vision and values of creating respectful places and treating people well.

We have therefore taken the decision that we need to consolidate Delius and Elgar wards with our inpatient services at the Abraham Cowley Unit on the St Peter's Hospital site in Chertsey. Delius and Elgar wards serve adults of working age living in mid Surrey.

Rationale

We have undertaken some work at the Mid Surrey Assessment and Treatment Unit recently to implement environmental security and practice changes, with the aim of reducing the risk of people going absent or missing from the wards. However, these changes have not had a positive impact on people's experience with us.

An external report completed for the Trust has identified environmental issues with kitchen areas, flooring and bathrooms. These do not meet standards within our internal infection control audits and are continuing to be flagged by the early warning triggers monitored by our Quality and Safety team.

Due to the size and configurations of the wards, our Therapy and Diversional Activities are facilitated for both wards within Elgar ward. Provision of these activities is considered essential to supporting people's recovery, however, their environment can restrict people's ability to attend.

The CQC raised some comments regarding our ability to be fully compliant with Maintaining Single Sex Accommodation guidance on these wards during our inspection in March 2016.

Renovation works to address these concerns and deliver the quality of environment we require has been considered extensively. However, due to the high cost and lengthy timescale for completing this work, we feel that a temporary relocation is the most sensible solution until the development of our second mental health hospital for people in north west, mid and east Surrey is complete.

The Abraham Cowley Unit is a standalone unit, run and used solely by Surrey and Borders, where we feel we are more able to create an environment that promotes dignity and respect. People on the wards at the Abraham Cowley Unit have easy and safe access to a full range of therapy activities and recreational spaces including a therapy kitchen, gym, skills workshop, craft room, café and pleasant outdoor space.

We currently have one adult mental health ward there: Blake ward. Two more wards - Clare and Anderson - are now available following the opening of Farnham Road Hospital in Guildford; it is these that the relocated wards will occupy.

Anderson ward will be our female-only ward with 13 beds and Clare ward will be our male-only ward with 16 beds, which will provide one more bed than our current facilities. There will also be the opportunity to increase capacity on Clare ward by an additional two beds should there be the demand for this.

Relocation would enable our staff to work more collaboratively across the wards under clinical leadership based on a single site.

Next steps/timetable

We are currently undertaking environmental improvements at the Abraham Cowley Unit and are keen that the transition happens with minimal delay. Our aim is to relocate the wards in January 2017.

Discussions with people using the services and their families are taking place and we will continue to involve people and keep them up to date with developments as we progress our planning to transfer the services.

We are currently consulting with our staff regarding relocating their place of work from Epsom to Chertsey and discussing any individual needs.

We anticipate this arrangement will stay in place until the development of our second mental health hospital for people in north west, mid and east Surrey is complete, which we expect to be within the next five years.