

Update on Adult Learning Disabilities across Durham Tees Valley for Durham Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

General Manager (Interim) – Adult Learning Disabilities

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DTV Adult Learning Disabilities – Current Provision



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust

- The Trust is commissioned to provide 21 Assessment and Treatment beds for Adults with Learning Disabilities.
- The service is provided from two sites:

Lanchester Road Hospital in Durham

- Offering 6 beds across 2 ward areas – Ramsey and Talbot - commissioned by Durham Tees Valley
- Of which 2 beds are occupied.



Bankfields Court in Middlesbrough

- Offering 16 beds across 5 different units - 11 are commissioned for Durham Tees Valley, 4 are commissioned by North Yorkshire & York plus 1 specialist package.
- Of which 8 beds are occupied.



- Pressures in Learning Disability services are well sighted at both national level and across the system.
- A decision was taken by the Trust in January 2022 to close the service to new admissions in light of service pressures and some emerging concerns.
- Multiple factors led to this decision including:
 - changes in demand and levels of patient acuity;
 - community placements and infrastructure not meeting the needs of some of our people with the most complex needs;
 - high levels of vulnerability;
 - poor flow and limited bed capacity;
 - estates challenges to meet the changing needs.
- A number of patients had been admitted because there was no viable alternative and not because they met the criteria for admission to the service.
- An unannounced CQC inspection took place across both ALD inpatient sites over a three week period in May and June 2022, in response to information of concern. This was extended to a full inspection.
- At that time, there were 14 patients across both sites – 4 at Lanchester Road and 10 at Bankfields Court.
- The full report published post-inspection included four MUST DO actions for the service. These related to staffing; care and treatment; governance; restrictive practice.
- The Care Group Managing Director and the ALD General Manager attended the Durham OSC in November 2022 to update members on the outcome of the inspection and our improvement work to date.

Rationale for Temporary Closure

- We have developed and are implementing a comprehensive and multi-stranded Improvement Plan in response to the CQC concerns.
- The plan describes over 100 actions we are taking to enable us to achieve our CQC 'Must Dos'.
- However:
 - x Recruitment across medics, nursing and AHPs remains an issue
 - x The clinical model was not working effectively within the context of the wider system
- In order to mitigate the workforce challenges and the ability to maintain safe delivery of care, a proposal was taken to Trust Executive Directors to request a temporary closure of the two ALD wards at Lanchester Road.
- The proposal was driven by the inability to safely staff the two wards at LRH and the impact this was having on the care of the two remaining patients on this site.
- The proposal would allow the service to:
 - minimise the impact of current vacancies
 - prevent the increased use of agency
 - further develop the clinical model and associated estates
- The original intention was to temporarily close the wards at Lanchester Road and collapse the two inpatient sites to one (Bankfields Court) by the 31st January 2023.
- There has been slippage to the original planned date due to the inability to safely transition the one remaining patient from LRH.

Update on Bed Model Plans

- A Task and Finish Group meets weekly to monitor progress against the project plan.
- The plan includes communication with all of our partners.
- A weekly update is provided to the Trust's Executive Board to track progress against a closure date for LRH and agree a trajectory for re-opening, focusing on safety, risks and opportunities.
- Staff preferences have been mapped against options and wider support is in place for staff.
- A 'tracker' is in place to closely monitor and review each patient's transition
- Families/carers and advocates continue to be involved in the development of these plans.
- One patient at LRH is currently on s17 leave as they transition to a new community provider.
- We anticipate that the revised date for closure will not be earlier than 31st March.
- It is difficult to predict an exact date to re-open, but we have developed an explicit set of criteria which will need to be in place in order to re-open. Best estimate would be that closure will be for more than 6 months.
- Once the wards have closed, these will be monitored very closely by the Programme Board and monthly updates (at a minimum) will be provided to all staff affected through briefings and engagement sessions.

What now...

- ✓ System pressures and a lack of alternative options and/or providers continue to cause significant and ongoing issues – in terms of both current inpatients and potential admissions.
- ✓ Our community teams continue to work hard to support patients in their own homes and prevent admissions wherever possible.
- ✓ We are working with our system partners to try to resolve these issues where we can and to continue to make quality improvements.
- ✓ We have seen some recent successes and a number of discharges to community placements.
- ✓ We have undertaken focused work to redefine the clinical model and further work is planned, including learning and best practice from other secondary learning disability inpatient providers across England.
- ✓ We are building on the strengths recognised by the CQC – where care was positive and person centred, delivered by staff who treated service users with dignity and respect.