

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

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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 1 bed is 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
- 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 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.

Post-CQC Inspection

- We developed and have implemented 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' All actions on the plan have now been implemented
- However:
 - x Recruitment across medics, nursing and AHPs remains an issue
 - x The clinical model is currently under review to ensure it is effective within the context of the wider system
- The initial plan included a temporary closure of the wards at Lanchester Road.
- However, due to the discharge of 3 patients and improved continuity of staff, this decision has been paused while we focus on the last patient's discharge from the site.
- Plans are being developed to remodel the bed configuration across Durham and Tees Valley in line with NHSE bed trajectories.
- In April, the CQC completed a full inspection of all TEWV services, including ALD wards. Informal feedback following this inspection was positive for our services and specifically noted the improvements made.
- There are plans for a systemwide summit in Autumn 2023 to plan the future state model.

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 'tracker' is in place to closely monitor and review each patient's transition
- Families/carers and advocates continue to be involved in the transition plans.
- We are working with the Challenging Behaviour Foundation to determine the best option for the transition of remaining patient at LRH.
- It is difficult to predict an exact date to re-open to admissions, but we have developed an explicit set of criteria which will need to be in place in order to re-open.

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 and meet weekly 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.