

Briefing Note: Reconfiguration of TEWV County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Services for Older People (MHSOP) Community Teams

Background and rationale for change:

For many years MHSOP services in County Durham and Darlington were provided by 5 teams covering the following geographical areas:

- Darlington and Teesdale
- Derwentside
- Durham and Chester le Street
- Easington
- Sedgefield and Weardale

There have been changes at national, regional and local levels to create Integrated Care Systems and Integrated Care Boards; this has resulted in the establishment of the Tees Valley configuration and subsequent alignment of Darlington to that commissioning structure. Alongside this, within TEWV a restructure has resulted in creation of care groups to align to the new arrangements. It is therefore timely and appropriate to consider how the TEWV community teams reflect local commissioning structures and how best to align to provide robust and high-quality services to our expansive geographical areas.

Changes to be implemented:

To change the community team structure in County Durham to:

- Incorporate Teesdale.
- Provide a more balanced staffing resource by population size & service demand.
- Create teams of more equal size to ensure resilience and optimal operational efficiency and provide ability to equitably utilise MDT resource amongst teams.

The new team structure will maintain 4 community teams within County Durham, but will be inclusive of the Teesdale location. The new team configurations will be as follows:

Team 1 Bishop Auckland and Dales – this will cover Weardale, Teesdale, Bishop Auckland and Sedgefield 1 PCN.

Team 2 Durham – to include Durham PCNs and Sedgefield North PCN.

Team 3 Derwentside and Chester le Street.

Team 4 Easington - no change from current structure.

Inpatient admission changes for Sedgefield North PCN:

The change to community teams will also mean that patients from Sedgefield North PCN who require admission to an older peoples (functional) ward will be admitted to Bowes Lyon Unit at Lanchester Road Hospital, rather than West Park Hospital (WPH). Travel time and mileage remains comparable to the current arrangements to WPH. Of the 103 admissions from County Durham in the last 12 months, 13 (7%) of

these were from the Sedgefield North area. Admissions for patients with organic (dementia) conditions will remain at Auckland Park Hospital.

The impact on patients and families in the Sedgefield North PCN area is an average of between 1 and 4 miles further to travel to Lanchester Road Hospital, compared to their travel time to West Park Hospital. The inpatient change will also balance the beds per population size across County Durham.

Impact assessment of the change to CMHT configuration:

- The majority of patients in County Durham will see no change or a decrease in mileage and travel time. Approximately 30% of appointments are undertaken at CMHT base and 70% in the patients' home/care home. For 1st appointments this increases to 95% of patients being seen at home.
- An impact assessment has identified 3 areas where mileage and/or travel time will change as a result of the team base changes. These are Gainford (Teesdale PCN), Chester le Street PCN and Sedgefield North PCN areas.

The table below details the impact for the 3 areas highlighted and describes the number of patients who may be affected and the impact (positive and negative) on mileage and travel time to appointments;

AREA	Current team base	Change in mileage and travel time for appointment at new team base	Number of patients affected – new referrals	Number of patients open to the team (current caseload)	Other comments
Teesdale: Gainford	WPH / Richardson hospital	To Auckland Park Hospital (APH)/ Richardson Hospital: The majority of patients (89%) will have a reduced mileage and travel time – on average a reduction of 5 miles and 20 minutes travel time. Gainford residents will have an increase in mileage and travel time - a further 4 miles and 25 minutes extra travel time. Residents will continue to have 1 bus change.	189 Teesdale, of which 22 from Gainford	138 Teesdale, of which 13 are from Gainford	Appointments will continue to be offered at Richardson Hospital

AREA	Current team base	Change in mileage and travel time for appointment at new team base	Number of patients affected – new referrals	Number of patients open to the team (current caseload)	Other comments
Sedgefield North	APH	To LRH: There will be an increase in mileage and travel time, between 2 and 4 miles. Journey time varies with some decreasing. Some journey times increase within a range of 10 – 26 minutes further than current travel time.	399	309	Identifying a satellite base for appointments in Spennymoor area
Chester le Street	LRH	Derwent Clinic: An increase of between 5 – 11 miles and between 27 and 50 minutes additional travel time, compared to the current base	396	424	A range of premises within CLS including the health centre and LRH are being finalised to offer for appointments

We will have a detailed individualised plan for each affected patient to ensure their safe transfer of care between teams or clinicians as a result of this organisational change. We will have direct communication with affected patients to explain the change and ensure a smooth transition.

Implications for GPs:

We have shared the proposal with the PCN network and will have direct contact with affected PCNs (Teesdale, Chester le Street and Sedgefield North) to ensure they are aware of the new team details. Any incorrect referrals during the transition period will be managed internally to ensure they are received by the correct team and not returned to the GP.

Engagement with partners, staff and patients:

The paper has been shared with the Durham Tees Valley Commissioning Group and with the County Durham PCN network. The paper has been sent to leads for Durham and Tees Valley ICB place directors.

The proposal has been discussed with Age UK and Alzheimers society.

We have attended the County Durham Health and Care Engagement Forum who will forward the presentation to the County Durham carers forum and to patient reference groups with TEWV's offer to attend to discuss further.

We are attending the Durham OSC in November to share the proposal and explain the engagement which has taken place.

We have commenced a formal consultation and organisational change process with TEWV staff.

Subject to the outcome of engagement events we anticipate the change will take place in Q4 23/24.

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