

Improving mental health inpatient facilities in Derbyshire – update

Background

Over the last year we have been discussing future changes to local inpatient (hospital based) mental health services across Derby and Derbyshire. The following services were proposed, and agreed:

Development at Kingsway Hospital

- A new 54 bedded male facility, across three wards (this will partially replace the upper wards at the Radbourne Unit in Derby, which have no direct access to outdoor space).

Development at the Chesterfield Royal Hospital site

- A new 54 bedded facility with single rooms, across three wards, with flexibility to support men, women and non-binary patients on the Chesterfield Royal Hospital site (this will replace the Hartington Unit wards, currently based on the same site).

Local funding, from the local integrated care system (Joined Up Care Derbyshire), is currently in the process of being secured for the remaining projects (please note, we aim to ensure that all refurbishment projects meet the same standards as the new builds):

Development at the Radbourne Unit (on the Royal Derby Hospital site)

- Refurbishment of the existing Radbourne Unit in Derby to provide 34 female single rooms with en-suites, across two wards, and complete eradication of dormitory wards.

Development at Kingsway Hospital

- Up to eight new beds in an ‘acute plus’ facility for women
- A new PICU (Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit) for 14 men.

Development at Walton Hospital, Chesterfield

- Refurbishment of one ward at Walton Hospital to accommodate a 12-bed relocation of older adult inpatient service from the Hartington Unit – please see separate consultation update for further information on this proposal.

Consultation and engagement activities to date

As discussed with the Committee previously, given the necessary timescales, restrictions regarding use of the funding and limited land options and for the new builds, it was agreed the preferred public communications approach for the new build acute inpatient hospitals would be an ongoing engagement process rather than a formal consultation.

The exception to this was the formal consultation for the proposed move in service for older people’s functional mental health services, given the geographic move from the Hartington Unit to Walton Hospital, and included the proposed permanent relocation of older people’s functional mental health services for Southern Derbyshire, from London Road, Derby to Tissington House, Kingsway Hospital.

This consultation took place between 1 December and 1 February. An update is included below and a detailed report is shared alongside this paper.

For the rest of the developments, engagement processes took place throughout the summer of 2021. This included letters being sent to local residents close to Kingsway Hospital, engagement with the Trust's EQUAL forum, engagement with the Trust's wider stakeholder groups across the city and county, and media liaison which resulted in positive press stories. These messages were supported by engagement with the planners to offer insight into the projects, particularly the new buildings. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive with nine out of ten local resident responses in favour of the Kingsway Hospital new development. This was mirrored for the Chesterfield site new build when members of the public, stakeholders, and wider interested parties were invited to share their views via a survey – nine out of ten respondents felt positive or very positive about the new development.

Separate engagement is taking place focused on Audrey House, based at Kingsway Hospital, which was previously used as an inpatient rehabilitation facility. This started on 24 January and closes 7 March. A summary is included below and a future report will be shared outside of the formal meetings, once this feedback has been received and analysed.

Planning permission for the developments at Kingsway Hospital was agreed on 9 February and the development at Chesterfield Royal Hospital received planning approval on 18 February.

Following this, tree felling commenced on both sites to ensure the land is suitable for use. The Trust is committed to wildlife preservation and ensuring green spaces are available for service users and staff so, to offset the planned tree felling, we have pledged to create a positive ecological offset around both sites when the buildings are completed. In line with service user feedback, therapy gardens and sky gardens will also be created.

An update on our engagement and consultation activities since the last meeting

Older people's mental health services:

As agreed with the Derbyshire and Derby City Adult Health Scrutiny Boards, due to the change in site, a full 60 day public consultation has now been undertaken for the older adult relocation from the Hartington Unit to Walton Hospital, alongside the proposed permanent relocation of older adult services from London Road, Derby to Tissington House, Kingsway Hospital.

In summary, the feedback received was positive, with the majority of respondents supporting the proposed moves, citing better facilities for service users as one reason. Queries were raised directly with the Trust regarding the separation of working age adults and older adults in the north of the county and responded to accordingly, with a focus on the need to align with best clinical practice.

Feedback received from relevant staff, service users and carers regarding the Tissington House permanent relocation prior to the start of the consultation was overwhelmingly positive, this was reflected in the feedback from the survey respondents.

The full report enclosed highlights the feedback received throughout the consultation. Whilst the older people's services in the north of the county will not relocate until the ward has been redeveloped to ensure it is suitable for the new patient cohort, we ask the Board to agree that this move can take place at a future date.

Inpatient rehabilitation services:

The agreed engagement process is also underway regarding the use of Audrey House based at Kingsway Hospital in Derby. The unit was previously used as an inpatient mental health rehabilitation service, but in recent years there has been a decrease in demand for inpatient mental health rehabilitation. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a project had commenced to deliver a new community rehabilitation service, however in response to the pandemic and the low number of patients, Audrey House was temporarily closed in April 2020, with inpatient services being delivered from the adjacent Cherry Tree Close.

Since April 2020 Cherry Tree Close has been able to manage flow, in to and out of the unit. Bed availability has been regularly monitored, remains stable and there is no expectation that we will need the beds provided at Audrey House for inpatient rehabilitation services in the future.

We have proposed, that following the public engagement process which closes on 7 March, Audrey House becomes the permanent base for the county's new Acute Plus facility, providing enhanced support to women, across eight inpatient beds. However, it has been identified that the unit will first be required as the decant facility, to release space at the Radbourne Unit for commencement of the refurbishment process. (Engagement regarding the development of an acute plus facility was included in the public engagement that took place in summer 2021).

Direct engagement has taken place with current rehabilitation carers and service users at Cherry Tree House, and we have directly contacted people who were previously supported at Audrey House. Internal engagement has also continued to take place with Trust staff.

The engagement process closes on 7 March and we shall share the outcome report with Derby and Derbyshire Adult Health Scrutiny Boards in April 2022.

Artists impressions of the new facilities

The below images are indicative of the new builds at Kingsway Hospital and the Chesterfield Royal Hospital site. In collaboration with our partners, we are gathering staff, service user and carer feedback/opinion regarding the visuals, aromas and space of the projects in order to best meet the need of the users.

