

## **Improving mental health inpatient facilities in Derbyshire**

### **Paper presented by:**

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### **Introduction**

There are a wide range of mental health services currently provided throughout Derbyshire. Given the increasing demand for mental health support, a number of conversations are underway about how the requirements of the Five Year Forward View will be implemented locally. This includes potential changes and developments to both community and inpatient mental health services.

This paper focuses on local inpatient (hospital based) mental health services and our collective plans to improve the local facilities we currently have available, through national funding that has been identified to ensure that the services provided locally are able to meet current national requirements.

The plans outlined in this paper are an exciting opportunity to transform the facilities we currently have available in the city and county, bringing local mental health inpatient services more in line with national expectations and the services that are already provided across most other areas in the UK.

### **The case for change**

Acute mental health services in Derbyshire are provided by Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. At present there are two acute inpatient services for adults of working age in the county: the Hartington Unit in Chesterfield (based on the Chesterfield Royal Hospital site) and the Radbourne Unit in Derby (based on the Royal Derby Hospital site). Both units provide care from old fashioned dormitory style facilities, with approximately four beds within a bay.

In recent years the Trust has identified that the current estate from which acute mental health services are provided at both sites does not comply with current regulatory and legislative requirements for single, en-suite accommodation.

Given the significant level of investment required, these changes cannot be funded by the local health care system. Therefore this substantial national investment is a



fantastic opportunity and must be taken forward to ensure we are able to provide the best possible facilities for people accessing services in Derbyshire.

### **The current situation**

Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, with support from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), raised the need for national investment with NHS England and Improvement.

At the point of writing the Trust has received a small level of investment which has been provided for us to develop business cases to look at how we move forward and develop services to meet the national requirements. Whilst not confirmed at the time of writing, we are expecting to receive national dormitory eradication funding to improve mental health services in Derbyshire

It is important to note that once approval of any funding is granted, we will need to work at pace to implement the changes required. This is driven from a national level with the expectation that these changes are made quickly, to improve privacy and dignity and the overall patient experience of people receiving inpatient care for their acute mental health needs.

The conversations taking place at a national level focus on the dormitory provision in both the adult acute inpatient accommodation at the Hartington Unit in the north (Derbyshire County) *and* the Radbourne Unit in the south (Derby City). We have already briefed Derby City HOSC about the City based service and we are now briefing the County HOSC around the case and the intention to improve the facilities these services are delivered from.

Due to the Radbourne Unit supporting patients from the City and the County, especially South Derbyshire, we will ensure that the County HOSC is aware of any changes to both units.

Since our initial conversations with both of the HOSC, we understand the funding allocated for Derbyshire is slightly lower than initially expected, although still substantial. Given this change we will be reviewing our options to ensure the development can successfully progress within this financial envelope. We will continue to engage with the HOSC as these plans develop.

### **Development of a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)**

There is currently no PICU facility within Derbyshire and any patients who need this increased level of support for their mental health needs, have to travel outside of Derbyshire to access this service. This is not ideal for the experience of our patients/carers and also not in line with national guidance

Therefore in addition to the planned development of the two new acute units (which remain subject to national funding), Derbyshire Healthcare has committed to separately fund the development of a PICU on the Kingsway Hospital site in Derby.

Similar developments have previously take place in other parts of the country and whilst we are in our initial scoping and planning stage we have been seeking advice on how these units have been developed.

### **The importance of engagement in our developments**

We have engaged with a group of local service user representatives on all of the projects outlined in this paper, many of whom have experience of receiving acute inpatient care from the Trust's existing mental health facilities. This group have provided valuable input from a lived experience perspective and we intend to continue this engagement as we move towards service development options.

In addition, we will be working with the group of service receivers to develop robust engagement processes and plans to ensure we offer various options for engagement including but not limited to virtual discussion sessions and questionnaires. Our engagement plans will be co-produced with the service receiver group and be proportionate to the options identified. We will consider a range of possibilities in line with the guidelines of the current pandemic and reasonable adjustments to ensure our engagement is all inclusive and meaningful.

### **Next steps**

It is clear that we will need to move at speed to deliver this fantastic opportunity for local people. We believe that the central funding for the eradication of dormitory accommodation must be utilised before the end of March 2024 – making it very tight to achieve such a development within this time period.

We would like ensure that both HOSC's are aware of possible developments and to start an ongoing dialogue and seek advice on the development of a programme of engagement.

We intend to work alongside current and former patients, their carers and service user representatives to shape developments, making sure any new facilities meet their needs and preferences. We shall also engage with wider internal and external stakeholders and liaise with the HOSC throughout this process.

This is an overwhelmingly positive development and would greatly enhance the acute mental health care currently provided in Derbyshire. We see this as an amazing opportunity for local people who will benefit from additional mental health service being offered locally and through modern, fit for purpose accommodation.

Example images show what our new facilities could look like:

