

## **London Road Community Hospital – Ward 1**

### **Summary**

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to support the temporary changes to the services provided at Ward 1, London Road Community Hospital (LRCH), which will see the ward's current mental health inpatient services move to the Kingsway Hospital site so that the ward can accommodate urgently needed cancer and Lymphoedema services.

### **About Ward 1**

Ward 1 at London Road Community Hospital in Derby is an 18-bedded inpatient ward which has the ability to increase to 20 beds when necessary. It is currently operating with 17 beds in order to adhere to 'COVID secure' guidelines. The ward has gender-specific sleeping areas with a mix of single and shared rooms, which all have en-suite facilities.

At present, Ward 1 is leased by University Hospitals Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDB) to Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (DHcFT) so that DHcFT can provide inpatient services for older people with mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and psychosis.

### **Reason for the interim change**

UHDB has written to DHcFT to formally request the capacity at Ward 1 on the London Road Community Hospital site on an interim basis.

This is as a result of UHDB's recovery and restoration programme following the COVID-19 pandemic. 'COVID secure' requirements mean that temporary changes are needed in terms of how healthcare providers use their estate. Ward 1 will be used for the recovery of UHDB's cancer service along with other outpatient activity.

Given the additional space required for clinical services as a result of the social distancing measures required under the pandemic, plus a growth in waiting lists, UHDB are hoping to use the ward as soon as possible. Lymphoedema vacated their clinical space at Royal Derby Hospital more than a year ago and have been providing almost 100% of their appointments virtually since. The space that the team vacated was used to relocate Combined Treatment and Assessment Unit (Cancer Admissions Unit) off a ward to enable COVID safe pathways for, often immunocompromised haematology and oncology patients, and in order to expand the bed base on the wards.

Whilst the Lymphoedema team have worked hard to manage the risk, clinical safety and outcomes through virtual consultations, there is a clear need to see some patients face to face in order to measure the deterioration of the patient's condition, train patients in the correct application of compression garments and in order to avoid admission of acutely unwell patients. The team estimate that there are around 25-30 patients that are particularly

urgent and are at risk of needing admission. The community location of LRCH Ward 1 would be perfect to allow UHDB to safely bring the priority patients back into clinic, whilst continuing with the virtual clinics for the patients that do not need to attend in person. The alternative will require UHDB to move the CTAU back to the ward, into suboptimal estate and reduce our cancer bed base in the process.

### **Impact on the current mental health services provided at Ward 1**

DHcFT continues to have a vacant facility at the Kingsway Hospital in Derby, where the older people's mental health service can be relocated to at relatively short notice. This facility is Tissington House, an 18-bed modern facility which was formerly one of two inpatient units on the Kingsway Hospital site for older people with acute dementia needs; it is currently vacant following a reduction in demand for specialist dementia inpatient care thanks to the introduction of community services such as the Dementia Rapid Response Teams.

Tissington House will offer a calmer, more specialised healthcare environment for patients currently cared for at Ward 1. By moving to the Kingsway Hospital site, the service will be co-located with other inpatient mental health services including the specialist inpatient dementia unit, Cubley Court, which continues to operate on the site. There are a number of people who will have both an organic and functional mental health diagnosis. These people could be supported through either service, depending on the nature of each individual's clinical needs.

### **Longer term plans for Ward 1 and Ward 2 at LRCH**

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, a plan for a consultation on the relocation of older people's mental health services from London Road Community Hospital to Kingsway Hospital was developed. Initially these mental health services were provided from two wards at LRCH, Ward 1 and Ward 2. However, the introduction of an older people's mental health in-reach and home treatment service, to support a greater number of older people within their home environment, resulted in a reduction in bed demand and Ward 2 was temporarily closed in 2017 and subsequently refitted by UHDB to expand its services in the interim.

The planned consultation on the relocation of older people's mental health services was due to commence in March 2020 and local health scrutiny committees had agreed to a 60-day consultation due to the streamlined stakeholder group affected by this change. The consultation process unfortunately was paused due to the restrictions that came into effect with COVID-19 later that month.

Tissington House is the unit that had been identified as the location for the service in the previous planned consultation.

Therefore at the same time as supporting this temporary move, we are also making plans to progress again the 60-day consultation to permanently transfer the Ward 1 patients to Tissington House, in line with our previous plans. These plans will be brought back to the Review Board in due course once the approach has been refreshed.

### **Liaison with Scrutiny and next steps**

We ask the Adults and Health Scrutiny Review Board to recognise that this temporary move needs to be taken quickly, in order to support the prompt restoration of important cancer services. The joint planned date for the move is currently **16 June 2021**.

We will develop communications materials to help inform patients of the change.

The Board is also asked to note the longer-term plans for a 60-day consultation to permanently transfer the Ward 1 service to Tissington House at the Kingsway Hospital site. These plans will be brought back to the Review Board in due course.