

Improving mental health inpatient facilities in Derbyshire

In March 2021 we met to engage in early conversations about changes to local inpatient (hospital based) mental health services. We discussed our collective plans to improve the local facilities we currently have available, through national funding that had been identified to ensure that the services provided locally are able to meet national requirements

These developments continue to be an exciting opportunity to transform the facilities we currently have available in the county, bringing local mental health inpatient services in line with national expectations and the services that are already provided across most other areas in the UK.

Since the meeting in March 2021 we have received confirmation of the level of investment being allocated to Derbyshire to make these improvements. £80m has been identified, to be split equally between a development in Chesterfield and another in Derby, for which we have to seek national approval.

We have also received confirmation that the new facility for people of North Derbyshire can be provided from the Chesterfield Royal Hospital site, where the current facilities are located.

This paper outlines the updated plans, which have now received initial support from NHS England and Improvement. At a national level the expectation is 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. It is therefore important that we continue to work at pace to implement the changes required and gain approval to access the funds whilst they are available.

A recap on the case for change

Acute mental health services in Derby and Derbyshire are provided by Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. At present the Trust has two acute inpatient services for adults of working age: 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 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. In their visits to the Trust the CQC (Care Quality Commission) has also given the Trust actions to improve its estate. Given the significant level of investment required, these changes cannot be funded by the local health care system. Therefore this substantial national investment must be taken forwards to ensure national requirements are met across our services in Derbyshire.

National policy outlines the following ‘must do’ improvements:

- Mental health wards should be built to consist of single rooms, each with an en-suite bathroom where possible
- No one should need to travel outside of their local area to receive acute mental health care.

Derby and Derbyshire is one of a very small number of local areas who cannot currently meet the national requirements outlined above – hence the need for national investment was identified with NHS England and Improvement.

Current inpatient mental health services in Derby and Derbyshire

The Hartington Unit in Chesterfield currently offers 52 acute mental health inpatient beds for adults of working age. Similarly the Radbourne Unit in Derby comprises 90 acute inpatient beds across four 20 bedded wards for men and women.

There is also a 10 bed Enhanced Care Ward (ECW) at the Radbourne Unit, which provides a slightly higher level of clinical support for patients living across Derbyshire. This is necessary as there is no Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in the county, to support local people with the most acute mental health needs.

Both facilities support people from Derby and Derbyshire, based on their proximity to the nearest unit, alongside availability of a suitable vacant bed.

Over recent years the Trust has sought professional external advice about whether the current facilities at the Hartington and Radbourne Units can be redeveloped in order to meet national requirements. The conclusion is that it is not possible to re-provide all of the beds needed in single bedrooms with access to en-suite bathrooms in the existing sites, as this would require significantly larger premises than those available at the current two Units.

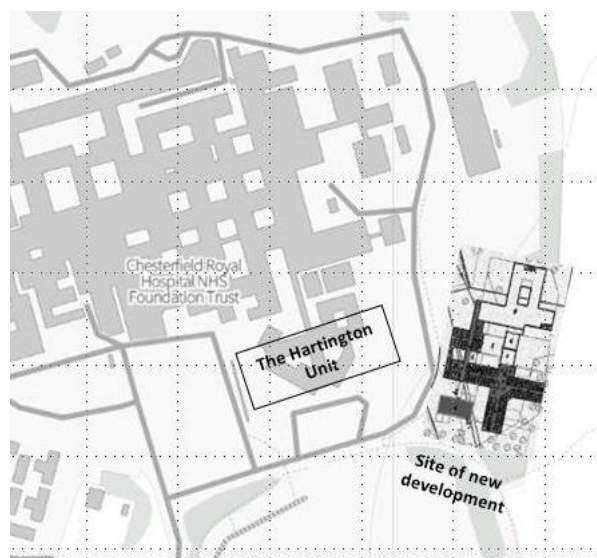
With the current arrangements, people who need a greater level of support than can be offered at the Hartington or Radbourne Unit have to travel outside of the area to access an appropriate PICU bed. Whilst every effort is made to identify a place as close to home as possible, given the demand for these places, people can sometime have to travel a substantial distance. This is clearly not ideal for the patient or the important contact and support that can often be found in regular interaction and visits from family and friends.

Future plans

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, currently based on the same site).

A location on the hospital site has been identified for the new development, which is very close to the current Hartington Unit, as indicated.



Development at Kingsway Hospital

- A new 54 bedded male facility, across three wards.

In addition to seeking support for the national funding for these two schemes, the Trust will also be seeking support from the Joined Up Care Derbyshire system for local capital funding for:

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, 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.

No beds would be lost in this development. It is an overwhelmingly positive move, to ensure local people have access to the best possible facilities. This development would meet national legislative requirements and provide purpose-built facilities for local people, improving privacy and dignity and the overall patient experience.

In terms of bed numbers, the remodelling offers the following:

	Current adult acute beds	New adult acute beds	Total beds
Derby	90	88	142
Chesterfield	52	54	
	Current 'acute plus' beds	New acute plus beds	
Derby	0	8	8
Chesterfield	0	0	
	Current PICU beds	New PICU beds	
Derby	0	14	14
Chesterfield	0	0	

It is anticipated that the units in Derby and Chesterfield will continue to work collaboratively to support patients from the north and south of the county to ensure access to the closest and most appropriate facility for their individual needs.

There are currently 12 beds for older adults with functional mental health needs based on Pleasley Ward at the Hartington Unit. We know that best practice guidance indicates that adults and older adults should not be supported through shared facilities and we are therefore planning to take this opportunity to provide bespoke services for adults and older adults.

We are committed to retaining the 12 older adult beds in Chesterfield and are currently in the initial stages of discussing potential future locations for this service with wider NHS colleagues in the local area. Further scoping needs to be undertaken before we can confirm any potential opportunity and we would like to discuss this further in a future meeting of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Board, when this detail becomes available.

Audrey House (a ten bed rehabilitation facility at Kingsway Hospital) is likely to be used as an interim decant facility to facilitate the rest of the programme. Audrey House is not currently being used for clinical purposes due to less beds being needed to meet the demand for inpatient rehabilitation services. It is also a potential site for the new female 'acute plus' facility, offering up to eight beds.

Further scoping needs to be undertaken before we can confirm this potential opportunity and we would also like to discuss this further in a future meeting of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Board, when this detail becomes available.

Our ongoing engagement approach

As discussed when we met in March, we need to move at speed to make sure we do not lose this positive opportunity for local people. The provision of central funding is linked to expenditure spend by Spring 2024 – making it very tight to achieve such a development within this time period. Now we have confirmation of the funding allocation we need to continue to implement the plans we have in place to develop these new services within the necessary timescales.

This is an overwhelmingly positive development which will greatly enhance the acute mental health care currently providing in Derby and Derbyshire. There is no change in service scope and there will be no loss of service – instead, local people will benefit from additional mental health service being offered locally and through modern, fit for purpose accommodation. The travel sensitivity has also been addressed by the closeness of the new facility to the existing Hartington Unit – within a short walk, on the same hospital site.

We have continued to engage with our service user forum, EQUAL in respect of the development, to ensure it is shaped by people with lived experience of mental health services. Recently we have held a dedicated session where the architectural plans have been shared with service users, carers and wider partners, to further discuss and shape the development

We intend to continue to work alongside current and former patients, their carers' and service user representatives to shape the development, making sure the new facilities being developed meet their needs and preferences.

As discussed in March, we appreciate the Adults and Health Scrutiny Board support for these ambitious plans and the proposed programme of engagement which will run alongside the development, in place of an initial single option public consultation. We are confident this will be increasingly meaningful for people who use our services now and in the future.

We shall also engage with wider internal and external stakeholders, including an opportunity for members of the public and wider interested parties to share their views through a survey which will be open later this summer. We are also committed to ongoing liaison with the Adults and Health Scrutiny Board throughout this process.

Example images show what our new facilities could look like

Similar mental health developments have taken place in other parts of the country and we have sought advice on how these units have been developed.

