

Report to: East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Date of meeting: 4 March 2021

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: Redesigning Inpatient Mental Health Services in East Sussex

Purpose: To update HOSC on the redesign of inpatient Mental Health Services in East Sussex, with a focus on the services provided at the Department of Psychiatry being moved on to a new site within the next three years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) consider and note the proposals for redesigning inpatient mental health services in East Sussex; and
 - 2) agree to consider a report at the 10th June meeting to determine whether the confirmed proposals constitute a 'substantial development or variation' to services requiring consultation with the committee under health scrutiny legislation.
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1. Background

1.1. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) provides inpatient mental health care to patients across four services areas – working age adults, older age adults, rehabilitation, and those living with dementia – in four locations in East Sussex – the Department of Psychiatry (DoP) at Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH), Woodlands Centre at Conquest Hospital in Hastings, Beechwood Unit at Uckfield Hospital, and Amberstone Hospital near Hailsham. Mental health inpatient stays tend to be unplanned except in a few specific circumstances.

1.2. SPFT and the NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) recognise that these facilities are currently not fit-for-purpose and are working in partnership to develop proposals to improve the quality of inpatient services.

2. Supporting information

2.1. The document attached as **Appendix 1** contains a summary on the progress so far in developing proposals for the future of inpatient mental health services in East Sussex.

2.2. The CCG and SPFT have identified a goal of *“building a new state-of-the-art facility potentially provided on a single campus sufficient to service all of the mental health inpatient needs of the people of East Sussex, now and in the future”*. They believe that the most effective way to achieve this goal is to deliver this campus in phases.

2.3. The Government announced an initiative in October 2020 for all NHS mental health trusts to eradicate “dormitory” style wards and replace them with single en-suite rooms. The Government committed more than £400 million of capital investment over the next few years to achieve this goal, which is to be shared across trusts.

2.4. The DoP at the EDGH contains the following three dormitory wards:

Location	Name	Service	Gender	Beds
Eastbourne District General Hospital, Eastbourne	Department of Psychiatry	Amberley Ward - inpatient care for adults with mental health problems	Female	18
		Bodiam Ward - inpatient care for adults with mental health problems	Male	18
		Heathfield Ward - inpatient mental health care for older people or those with additional physical and wellbeing needs	Mixed	18

2.5. Therefore, the first phase of the CCG and SPFT's proposal will be to use this national eradicating dormitory accommodation initiative funding to move the services provided at the DoP to a new site within the next three years. Sites in Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hailsham have been identified.

2.6. Further feasibility work needs to be undertaken in the next few months to check site conditions before a final site is confirmed. But there is a possibility that the CCG may consider proposals to move the DoP services to an area other than Eastbourne. Should this be the case, the CCG has indicated that this change will likely require a public consultation.

2.7. The CCG and SPFT are developing a Pre-Consultation Business Case (PCBC) that is planned to be completed and signed off by NHS England in the first quarter of 2021/22. Should a public consultation be required, the PCBC and consultation documents will need to be reviewed and approved by SPFT's Board of Directors and the East Sussex CCG Governing Body prior to any consultation. This means any public consultation would likely commence towards the end of the first quarter of 2021/22.

HOSC role

2.8. Under health scrutiny legislation, NHS organisations are required to consult HOSCs about a proposed service change that would constitute a 'substantial development or variation' to services for the residents of the HOSC area.

2.9. There is no national definition of what constitutes a 'substantial' change. Factors such as the number or proportion of patients affected, the nature of the impact and the availability of alternative services are often taken into account in coming to an agreement between the HOSC and the NHS on whether formal consultation is required.

2.10. In this case, the CCG has indicated the possibility of a public consultation if any options include moving the services currently at the DoP outside of Eastbourne. NHS England guidance recommends that a public consultation should take place if the HOSC considers a proposal a substantial variation to services, so, by extension, the HOSC may agree that if the CCG is planning a public consultation then the HOSC should consider the proposals a substantial variation to services.

2.11. The CCG, however, has not yet reached a point yet where it has decided which options to pursue further and whether, as a result, a public consultation will be necessary. A HOSC meeting is due to be held on 10th June 2021, which is expected to be around the time the CCG Governing Body will be in a position to agree its PCBC and public consultation plan. It is recommended that the HOSC agrees to consider a further update at its meeting on 10th June to make a decision about whether the proposals constitute a substantial variation to services requiring formal consultation with the Committee.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1. This report provides HOSC with an update on developments in relation to the redesign of inpatient mental health services in East Sussex, in particular the first phase of the redesign that will involve moving the services provided at the DoP in EDGH to a new site within the next three years.

3.2. The Committee is recommended to consider the proposals and agree to a further update at its 10th June meeting where a decision about whether the proposals constitute a substantial variation to services can be made.

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