

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**22 January 2010**

**Community Mental Health Services in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the review of Community Mental Health Services in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale.

**Introduction**

2. The letter attached as APPENDIX 1 provides the background to the review and the engagement process which NHS North Yorkshire and York has followed.
3. Melanie Bradbury, Assistant Director, NHS North Yorkshire and York will be attending the meeting to report on the event that took place at Sneaton Castle, Whitby on 14 December 2009 which was chaired by County Councillor Andrew Backhouse.

**Recommendations**

4. That Members offer advice to NHS NY&Y on the proposals set out in APPENDIX 1.
5. That Members agree a way forward in terms of whether or not any further consultation with the Committee is required.

**HUGH WILLIAMSON  
Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON**

**Written & Presented by Bryon Hunter  
Principal Scrutiny Officer – Health**

**12 November 2009**

**Background Documents: None**

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3 December 2009

Dear Colleague

**Re: Community Mental Health Services in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale**

I am writing to you to update you on imminent changes to community and mental health services in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale areas, and to invite your comments and questions on these proposals.

The background to these proposals is the National Dementia strategy for England which was published in February 2009. This identifies 17 key objectives which when implemented should result in a significant improvement in the quality of services and promote a greater understanding of the causes and consequences of dementia. NHS North Yorkshire and York have been working closely with North Yorkshire County Council and mental health providers in our response to the national dementia strategy with our key partnership aims being:

1. Services are sensitive to each persons individual circumstances
2. Support people to live independent, productive, fulfilling and active lives for as long as possible
3. Encourages people and their carers to be actively involved in the decisions made about their care
4. Support people in negotiating along their pathway of care as and when they choose and appropriate to their needs
5. Provide information and if appropriate equipment (telehealth and/or telecare) in a way that is understood and helps to support the person and their carers in the options available from diagnosis to end of life.
6. Are in line with best practice and wherever possible good evidence based practice and are cost effective.



For the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale locality, NHS North Yorkshire and York has been working with Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) to identify the key gaps and service priorities. These priorities have now been identified as:

- Good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all
- Improved quality of care for people with dementia in general hospitals
- Living well with dementia in care homes
- Informed and effective workforce

The Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale locality covers a population of 160,000 in a predominantly rural area. The population of over 65 years in the locality is 34,000. Currently in-patient and community services are provided within each local area. Acute (Hospital) in-patient assessment and short-term treatment services, are currently provided at the Cross Lane Hospital site in Scarborough with day care and long-term care provided at the community units for the elderly wards in Malton and Whitby. Cross Lane Hospital is currently being re-developed and upgraded. Community services are available in each locality and during the last 6 months TEWV have introduced extended community mental health services for older people, increasing the service from 5 day per week to 7 day per week and enhancing the number of staff working within the community to support people in their own homes.

A positive impact of the initial development of extended community services has been a reduction in the number of people being admitted for in-patient care. Feedback from service users consulted in community mental health developments, is that they want care as close to home as possible and where possible within their own homes; with access to good quality in-patient care when required.

As at December 2009, the bed occupancy at the 2 community units for the elderly wards in Malton and Whitby has reduced significantly. Originally, the Malton unit was opened as a 20 bedded unit but over time has reduced to a 12 bedded unit in view of the reducing demand for this type of care. It currently has 5 patients on the unit. The Whitby facility was originally opened as an 8 bedded unit and currently has only 2 in-patients.

To take these changes forward, NHS North Yorkshire and York are proposing to:

- Close the mental health in-patient ward at the Whitby Community Unit due to the falling demand for this type of care, it being no longer viable to keep the unit open on current occupancy levels
- Keep the Day Unit at the Whitby Community Unit open until alternative services for those patients have been identified and provided.
- Re-invest the resources released from the closure of the in-patient unit to support increased community infrastructure in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale localities



- The mental health in-patient ward at Malton Community Hospital to remain open in the medium term with current staffing levels to enable the provision of a 6 bedded challenging behaviour unit for older people with mental illness who cannot receive care in existing Care Homes in the area. This will enable patients to receive care within the locality rather than move to other units in York or Darlington as often happens now.
- Health care respite will continue to be available for people assessed as needing such care and will be provided from alternative providers in the Whitby area.
- NHS North Yorkshire and York to work with Practice Based Commissioners (local GPs) on the longer term requirement for a specialist Challenging Behaviour Service for older people with mental health problems in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale locality. The focus of this unit would be to provide specialist care as close to home as possible for patients currently receiving this care outside of Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. These proposals to be developed by the summer of 2010, with the Malton Unit an option for developing this as a local service.
- NHS North Yorkshire and York to use the revenue funding allocated to the Whitby Unit to increase staff and resources within the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale community to enable more patients to receive early intervention and treatment and be supported within their own homes, for as long as clinically appropriate.

During October and November 2009 we have begun preliminary discussions with the North Yorkshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NYOSC) on some of the thinking around these changes. A particular issue around these developments is the imminent closure of the in-patient unit at Whitby Hospital and the concerns that this may raise with the local community. We have also spoken about these changes with Practice Based Commissioning leads in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. All Practice Based Commissioning representatives are supportive of the development of community based services, acknowledging that they reduce hospital admission and also recognising that the future viability of the Whitby unit should be kept under review.

The next stage of our engagement is to give key stakeholders and members of the community an opportunity to understand the purpose of these changes. To that end we have arranged a public meeting to be held on the evening of Monday 14 December from 6 pm – 8 pm at:

The Big Hall  
Sneaton Castle Centre  
Whitby  
YO21 3QN



Chair: Kevin McAleese CBE

North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust  
Chief Executive: Jayne Brown OBE    Clinical Executive Chair: Dr Vicky Pleydell



If you would like to submit any questions prior to the public meeting, please forward these to Bridget Read, Patient Engagement Manager on 01653 605754 or email [bridget.read@nyypct.nhs.uk](mailto:bridget.read@nyypct.nhs.uk).

I hope you find this update helpful however, should you wish to discuss the content with representatives from NHS North Yorkshire and York please do not hesitate to contact Melanie Bradbury, Assistant Director (Vulnerable People and NHS Funded Continuing Healthcare).

Yours sincerely

**Melanie Bradbury Assistant Director,  
(Vulnerable People and NHS Funded Continuing Care)**



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