

**Progress Report to the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health
Committee on developing plans for Inpatient Services in the
Harrogate area, taking into account interim plans in
Ryedale and Knaresborough.
20th April 2012**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to keep North Yorkshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee up to date on the development of plans for inpatient services for older people who have a dementia.

2. Background

- 2.1 There is an increasing acknowledgement of the need to remodel all mental health services for older people (MHSOP) in Harrogate. This will include considering the long term future of the Alexander House inpatient service, the rationalisation of existing day services to develop a comprehensive memory management service and monitoring service, aligning the work of the Rapid Response Intermediate Care (RRICE) Team and Community Mental Health Teams to develop liaison services with nursing and residential care homes, more efficient case management and improved hospital liaison services.

This is a major change in the way services are delivered and this proposal is the result of four months initial work with the multidisciplinary MHSOP leadership team and key stakeholders in the area.

- 2.2 The case for change is based upon the need to ensure that all services are providing effective care that is meeting the ageing and changing needs of the local population that is provided as close to a person's home as possible, is of a high quality utilising evidence based practice and is in line with national strategy. In addition there is a requirement to deliver services in a cost efficient way that makes best use of public finances.

- 2.3 Key strategic drivers for change are:

- 2.3.1 The Independent Review of Health Services in North Yorkshire and York (August 2011). This recommended that local mental health services need to 'reduce inpatient beds and provide a comprehensive and high quality, preventative community mental health service'. In particular for older people services to:

- Ensure mental health services are integrated into the new community structures, including community hospitals, and aligned with the new Older People's Plans.
- Strengthen liaison psychiatry to avoid inappropriate admissions to inpatient care, and the provision of more 'step-up' and 'step-down' services in community settings.

- Provide better services and care for the growing number of people with dementia through the more efficient use of current resources.

2.3.2 Living Well With Dementia: A National Strategy (February 2009). The Strategy identifies 17 key objectives which, when implemented, largely at a local level, should result in significant improvements in the quality of services provided to people with dementia.

3. Proposals

3.1 The February 2012 meeting of the Board of Directors of Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) agreed to approach commissioners with a view to commencing a formal consultation process about the proposed closure of the inpatient services provided at Alexander House.

North Yorkshire and York PCT have indicated their support to progress with a formal consultation process. Timescales are yet to be agreed with the PCT.

3.2 All current patients and their families have been involved in reviewing their individual care needs. Where care needs are unable to be met through alternative, more appropriate provision, care will continue to be provided through services at Alexander House or through Rowan Ward, a further 20 bedded MHSOP assessment and treatment ward in Harrogate.

3.3 At the same time the TEWV Board of Directors have agreed in principle and in discussion with the PCT, to significant investment of £3.5 million in the Springwood facility in Malton. This will provide a 14 bedded North Yorkshire wide complex care needs unit providing specialist care for those with dementia. This development is subject to planning approval from the Local Authority. If planning approval is granted building work will start in October 2012 and complete in October 2013. During the build period it is proposed to decant the current facility in Malton to the Alexander House building in Knaresborough.

3.4 Alexander House currently has 16 beds but a typical occupancy level of six patients. This means that Alexander House can be used to decant the Springwood Unit, without detriment to the current level of service provided at Alexander House.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Discussion with the PCT will progress to implement a formal consultation process on the long term future of Alexander House.

4.2 Work will continue with current patients and their families to review their care needs and how best these needs can be met.

4.3 Pending planning permission, the development of the Springwood facility on the Malton Hospital site to provide specialist dementia care to those with complex care needs, will continue.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note this report and progress made to date.

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