

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

18 December 2020

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – Update on the development of North Moor House: A new community mental health hub in Northallerton for Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Report of

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Purpose of this report

1. This paper provides an update regarding the proposed community mental health hub for Hambleton and Richmondshire in Northallerton, and provides detail of recent developments and progress made. A previous paper was presented to the committee in September 2019.

Background

2. Mental health services across Hambleton and Richmondshire have been provided across a range of premises including health centres, GP surgeries, acute general hospital facilities and on business parks. It has long been identified that the services need to work more closely together and that this could be best supported by locating them alongside each other.
3. The removal of the Northallerton mental health inpatient beds in early 2019 enabled investment into community services (discussed in a separate paper previously submitted to the committee for review in 2019) which sought to significantly improve access for service users and carers, and to extend the mental health service offer to better meet people's needs, especially when experiencing emotional distress. These developments were funded through the reinvestment of finance which was previously required to maintain the inpatient bed provision.
4. Alongside the enhanced provision of community mental health services, the work to develop a new community mental health hub has been underway since 2018. The provision of a hub aims to join services more efficiently, increase the consulting / interview room spaces available (and thus improve access and reduce waiting) and to enable a more therapeutic environment in which people can be safely and comfortably seen. The architect's illustration of the completed hub is pictured below.



5. The hub will co-locate services from all 4 mental health specialties (Adults, Older Persons, Children and Young People and Learning Disabilities) within the same premises to enable effective communication and support joint working which will encourage safe transfers of care, such as the transition from children's services to adults.
6. Children and Young Persons services will have a separate entrance, reception and consulting spaces but staff will have access to shared facilities such as meeting and training rooms, dining facilities and break out spaces. This is to ensure safeguarding compliance, whilst retaining an "*under one roof*" ethos.
7. The early development programme for the new hub met a number of strategic challenges, not least in relation to identifying an achievable site. An original intention to construct the new hub within the grounds of the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton was unable to proceed and an alternative site was therefore required.
8. An alternative site was quickly identified within the new development area, Kings Park, adjacent Darlington Road in Northallerton and was purchased by TEVV following a successful planning application. The construction work on that site commenced in March 2020 just as the worldwide pandemic was taking hold.
9. For the purposes of planning approval an initial site name was required and at that stage North Moor House was chosen, as the site is located on North Moor Road. Further discussions with service users, carers and our Public Governors through our project steering group sought to consult on this name. The feedback we received confirmed that this name was acceptable to all and it is now the official name of this site.
10. Despite the limitations caused by the pandemic, including restrictions to number of workers permitted on site, furlough arrangements for sub-contractors, etc., progress has been positive and the scheme has experienced only minor delays – thankfully much less than initially anticipated at the start of lock-down restrictions. The construction programme was originally intended to complete in late February 2021 but it is acknowledged that due to a small number of Covid-19 related delays (such as the delivery of steel to site) the build will now be completed and handed over to us in early April 2021.

11. TEWV will then commission the building in April 2020 and into May 2020 over a six week period, after which we will be transferring services from the Friarage site, from Brompton House and from Gibraltar House, in Northallerton.
12. The scheme remains on track and current progress with the build is illustrated below.



13. The Friarage and Gibraltar House accommodation currently used by our teams are managed under a leasing arrangement and will be returned to the respective landlords. Brompton House is owned by TEWV and will be sold on the open market.
14. We have now reached agreement with South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust and have received assurance that the Acute Hospital Liaison (mental health) Team will remain on site within the hospital over the 24 hour period, 7 days per week – this is essential to comply with the requirements of Core 24. Additionally the Adult Crisis and Home treatment Team will be able to access accommodation at the Friarage Hospital out of working hours to ensure safe access for service users. Within working hours the Crisis and Home Treatment Team will be based at North Moor House, as intended.

Implications

- **Financial** – The development of North Moor House is being met from TEWV capital reserves
- **Human Resources** – A management of change process within TEWV will be facilitated prior to transfer of services into North Moor House
- **Equalities** – A refreshed equality impact assessment was completed prior the Full Business Case being approved
- **Legal** – N/A
- **Crime and Disorder** - N/A
- **Information Technology (IT)** – The new hub will embrace the most up to date technology to support remote working (where required) and to meet expected levels of connectivity. Remote working will include facilities and resources to use Microsoft Teams conferencing by all staff and also BT Attend anywhere for service user appointments where travel is not required or cannot be managed easily.

- **Property – N/A**

Conclusions

The development of North Moor House provides a fantastic opportunity to bring together all 4 mental health specialties to enable improved communication and support safe transfers of care, building on the success of Huntington House in York, and will provide invaluable learning for future community hub schemes across North Yorkshire and the rest of the TEWV patch.

Improvements to mental health working environments for staff and with regards to high quality care delivery environments for service users and carers have long been overdue in Northallerton. There has been little previous opportunity to significantly increase consulting room space and to promote the levels of joint working which can be achieved when services sit under the same roof.

The development of North Moor House is a crucial next step for services and represents TEWV's ongoing commitment to invest in the modernisation of mental health services.

Recommendations

The committee is asked to review and note this paper.

Author

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