

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**18 December 2020**

***Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – A brief update on the relocation of mental health services in Harrogate since the closure of the Briary Wing at Harrogate District Hospital in May 2020.***

**Report of**

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**Purpose of this report**

1. This paper provides a brief overview of the relocation of services which were previously accommodated within the Briary Wing at Harrogate Hospital.

**Background**

2. The Briary Wing at Harrogate District Hospital had been a base for a number of Harrogate mental health services since 1992, originally accommodating 2 Adult inpatient wards (Cedar and Willow wards) and 1 older people's inpatient ward (Rowan Ward).
3. Over a number of years the accommodation was developed to provide space for a dedicated adult crisis team which was developed through the closure of one of the adult wards (Willow), and later to provide space for the Acute Hospital (mental health) Liaison Team and the Older Person's Crisis Team.
4. Since 2019 it was intended that Adults and Older People requiring inpatient mental health services would be accommodated at Foss Park Hospital in York from May 2020 onwards. Cedar and Rowan wards were transferred to York in April 2020, ahead of schedule, to enable Harrogate Hospital to utilise those spaces within their Trust-wide Covid-19 continuity plans. A number of Harrogate staff elected to transfer to Foss Park when these services moved.
5. The Acute Hospital (mental health) Liaison Team remains in place at the Briary Wing, as it provides an essential component of the hospital's Core 24 offer. It is intended that the team will move out of the Briary Wing into other accommodation within the hospital in the coming months, but will remain on site in order to fulfil this essential role.
6. The Older Person's Crisis Team has been relocated to Alexander House in Knaresborough. This enabled the team to co-locate with the existing Older Person's Community Mental Health Team already based there. The two teams work with their service users across a shared pathway approach and by co-locating they can better support joined-up care packages and can easily flag clinical needs across the spectrum of care that they both deliver.

7. We were unsuccessful in identifying alternative accommodation for the Adult Crisis and Home Treatment Team and the Children and Young Persons Crisis Team within the Harrogate area and as a result we needed to relocate that service into our site at The Orchards in Ripon. By making some accommodation changes at that base we have managed to accommodate the staff, offer a little extra consulting space and support the two teams to work closely together.
8. It is absolutely understood that this relocation to The Orchards is an interim solution only and cannot be sustained in the long term. This aligns to our lease end date at Windsor House in Harrogate, where we accommodate the Adult Community Mental Health Teams for Harrogate and Ripon. That lease expires in April 2024 and we recognise that a more permanent base will be required ahead of that date. Work is already underway to identify potential sites and explore all possible solutions to re-establish the Adults and the Children's and Young Persons crisis services alongside the Adult Community Mental Health Teams in Harrogate. The Steering Group overseeing this development has service user and carer input to ensure wide understanding and acceptability of all solutions considered.
9. In making these recent accommodation changes we took the opportunity to relocate our Pharmacy Team to Windsor House to work alongside our Community Mental Health Teams, and also took opportunities to increase accommodation at Windsor House, The Orchards and Alexander House for our medical staff.
10. TEWV recognises that the moves have impacted service users and carers, as well as clinical staff, and we are doing everything we can to ensure good access to services using a range of approaches including new remote working solutions such as BT Attend Anywhere and Microsoft Teams to reduce travelling and increase team availability, especially in light of the recent pandemic restrictions.

## Implications

- **Financial** – N/A in these recent changes.
- **Human Resources** – A management of change process was facilitated prior to transfer of services across the Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon and York localities.
- **Equalities** – A refreshed equality impact assessment was completed prior to the transfer of services.
- **Legal** – N/A
- **Crime and Disorder** - N/A
- **Information Technology (IT)** – The opportunity has been taken to support improved IT access including sustainable solutions for remote working.
- **Property** – N/A

## **Conclusions**

The transfer of services out of the Briary Wing at Harrogate District Hospital has been a significant change for service users, carers and clinical staff.

In making these changes TEWV has been mindful of the need to retain service delivery commensurate with individual clinical needs and ensure improved access to help where and when required.

Whilst the transfer of crisis services to Ripon was unavoidable it is fully acknowledged that these should be transferred back into Harrogate at the earliest possible opportunity and this is being worked into the planning for the accommodation requirements ahead of the lease expiry at Windsor House.

## **Recommendations**

The committee is asked to review and note this paper.

## **Author**

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