

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

**18 December 2020**

***Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – Development and completion of Foss Park hospital in York***

**Report of**

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**Purpose of this report**

1. This paper provides an update regarding the development and completion of Foss Park hospital in York, highlighting progress to date and detailing the current position regarding management of inpatient services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Background**

2. Previous reports have been presented to the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Scrutiny of Health Committee in September 2018 and September 2019. Since that time the hospital has been completed and commissioned, and services have successfully transferred to the new site.
3. The new purpose-designed 72 bed hospital provides two adult, single sex wards and two older people's wards - one for people with dementia and one for people with mental health conditions such as psychosis, severe depression or anxiety. The hospital was opened in April 2020, in the height of the worldwide pandemic, one week ahead of schedule.
4. All 72 bedrooms are single bedrooms with en suite facilities. All have views of garden spaces and each bedroom corridor has rooms on one side and garden views on the other so that no 2 rooms face each other.
5. TEWV has invested approximately £40m (including VAT, fees and land purchase) from internal cash resources to support this development
6. A photo of the finished entrance is illustrated below (this is not an artist's impression!).



7. Service user and carer involvement has been integral to the development of Foss Park and we have facilitated over 60 design workshops in which service users and carers, and clinical staff, have taken an active part. This level of engagement continued beyond the design stages and service users and carers were key members and equal partners on our project steering group, helping us to improve our understanding and to raise awareness of their needs.
8. In October 2018 the hospital name and the names of the individual wards were chosen through a facilitated democratic focus group approach comprising service users, carers, clinical staff and key local stakeholders. From the focus group a paper was provided for the TEWV Executive Management Team to make the final decisions, based on the expressed wishes.
9. The decision was made for the hospital to be called **Foss Park** and the individual wards were named as follows:
  - **Ebor** ward – female adult beds
  - **Minster** ward – male adult beds
  - Moor ward – older person’s functional beds
  - Wold ward – older person’s organic (dementia)beds
10. Following this decision, considerable feedback was received from service users and carers and from clinical staff regarding the naming of the older person’s wards. Feedback consistently highlighted that both names were problematic to pronounce and required a suffix after each name to make them easier to articulate.
11. Further work was undertaken within older person’s inpatient services to seek service users and carers most popular choices of suffix options. As a result of this engagement work it was confirmed that the names for the older person’s wards are as follows:

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- **Moor Croft** ward –18 older person’s functional beds
  - **Wold View** ward – 18 older person’s organic (dementia)beds
12. Over the last 24 months we have been proactively managing our dementia beds and the number of beds in use has dramatically decreased because agencies are working more closely together to avoid unnecessary admissions and to reduce the amount of time people remain within our inpatient environments (delayed transfers of care).
  13. As a result of these developments, in August 2019 we decided to merge our 2 remote single sex dementia wards into one mixed sex dementia ward at Meadowfields in York. This necessitated some building work to Meadowfields to maximise safety, privacy and dignity, and to ensure compliance against the prescribed standards of eliminating mixed sex accommodation such as the provision of extra bathing facilities and the managed adjacency of rooms. This preparation work was vital in preparing for the later transfer to Foss Park in April this year.
  14. The beds at Foss Park hospital accommodate patients from York and Selby, and from Harrogate. Concern has previously been expressed in York, and latterly in Harrogate, regarding the availability of inpatient beds going forwards, most specifically with regards to older person’s beds, and with particular regards for those patients with dementia requiring an inpatient admission.
  15. Since the opening of Foss Park the maximum number of beds occupied on our dementia ward, Wold View, has been 10 out of 18 beds (55.5%) and on most occasions we have experienced less than 50% occupancy.
  16. There was a reduction of 2 adult beds from Harrogate and York when Foss Park became operational in April 2020, providing 36 adult beds in total. Previously there were 38 beds available - 14 on Cedar Ward in Harrogate and 24 beds at Peppermill Court in York. In mitigating any shortfall 2 beds are available at Cross Lane Hospital in Scarborough (to ensure sufficient availability) although our operational direction remains firmly focussed on reducing traditional over-reliance on beds and to safely support our service users at home, noting the need for good quality carer support alongside this.
  17. The beds at Foss Park, in adult and older person’s services, are identified as *locality* beds and purposefully not identified as belonging to *Harrogate* or *York*. This is crucial to ensuring an equitable approach which avoids any disadvantage. Equally we are keen to make sure that clinical priority dictates need so that beds can be used efficiently and in a clinically focussed manner.
  18. The photographs below are illustrations of outdoor therapy spaces and day spaces, as an example of the high quality environment.



## Implications

- **Financial** – The development of Foss Park hospital was met from TEWV capital reserves
- **Human Resources** – A full and through management of change process within TEWV was facilitated prior to transfer of services into the new hospital
- **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 hospital embraces the most up to date technology to support the clinical teams on site, including remote working where this is a clinically appropriate means of communicating with service users and carers (such as to conduct assessments, seek feedback, and to maximise engagement.)
- **Property** – N/A

## **Conclusions**

The development of Foss Park in York has been much awaited. It represents a new era of inpatient mental health care, providing an excellent environment in which to recover and one that effectively supports modern health care delivery. Additionally, the high quality accommodation and abundance of space available maximises service user choice both indoors and outdoors and will support healing processes and recovery.

It is viewed by local service users and carers as a new start in inpatient mental health provision, moving away from a traditional approach based on an over-reliance of beds, towards a community facing ethos of keeping people safe and properly supported at home whenever clinically appropriate. However, for people who do require inpatient services it provides comfort and safety whilst maximising choice and personal dignity.

## **Recommendations**

The committee is asked to review and note this paper.

## **Author**

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Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust