

Care Quality Commission
Briefing Note for the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Commission
Leicester City Council
13 September 2013

Subject

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Bradgate Unit.

Purpose

The purpose of this note is to outline the current position of the CQC with regard to the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

This briefing should be read in conjunction with the “Guide for overview and scrutiny committees for health and social care” which is attached.

Background

The Bradgate Mental Health Unit was registered as a location under the provider Leicestershire Partnership NHS trust in April 2010. We inspected the unit in the spring of 2011 and found that it was failing to be compliant with a number of the regulations contained in the Health and Social Care Act (2008). This was mirrored at the Evington Centre, another location under this registration. We issued compliance actions.

We inspected both units again in the autumn of 2011 and found that they were now compliant with those regulations.

We inspected the Bradgate Unit again in October 2012. We found that the trust was not compliant with three regulations. These related to how the trust was supporting staff, clinical governance and record keeping. We again set compliance actions.

We returned to check whether these actions had been met in February 2012. We found that they had made sufficient progress to comply with these regulations. We found that while the trust had not embedded actions taken following the inspection in October they had taken action and staff and patients reported positive impacts of these actions taken. We also found that the governance system had been strengthened by recent developments. However we remained concerned about the sustainability of the actions taken by the trust.

Our continuing monitoring of the trust after February indicated that safeguarding, supporting workers and governance processes may have been potential new areas of non-compliance.

Current Position

We inspected the unit in July. The team reviewed care plans and discharge arrangements which had been a concern previously at the trust. Inspectors found significant concerns in respect of staff understanding and managing risks.

The report of this and other inspections is available on our website.

Overall we found that the trust was failing to be complaint with five regulations. We issued compliance actions in respect of three of these regulations. These related to aspects of safeguarding, supporting workers and quality assurance / governance.

We also issued warning notices in respect of two further regulations. These related to care and welfare and cooperating with other providers. The trust was required to be compliant with these latter regulations by the end of August.

We are currently inspecting the unit again to check whether they are now compliant with the two regulations that were the subject of the warning notices.

In general terms if we find that the trust has not met the requirements of the warning notices then there are a number of other courses CQC can take to enforce compliance. We can issue a simple caution or fixed penalty notice and fine the trust, we can impose a condition on their registration or we can cancel their registration. We also have an opportunity to seek approval from the secretary of state to undertake a special investigation.

Wider Regulatory Context

We are in continuing dialogue with partners about the LPT. These partners include the CCGs, NHS England, the Trust Development Agency and Healthwatch organisations across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland.

We have also recently briefed the Leicestershire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

We met with other key stakeholders at the Quality Surveillance Group in August 2013. This group includes all the partners mentioned above as well as Directors of Adult Social Services. We discussed the concerns of the CQC and others. We discussed the impact of having a new management team, including Chief Executive Officer, Director of Nursing, Medical Director and Operating Officer.

At this meeting it was agreed that key stakeholders would work together to continue to monitor and ensure that safety of people using the unit.

We continue to work closely with these partners to ensure that we share as common an understanding as possible of the challenges and that the combined actions we take are as coherent as possible. We welcome the attention that the trust is now receiving from the Leicester Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

Tim Birtwisle
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Care Quality Commission
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