

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 28th March 2022, 5.30pm

Report title: **Eliminating Mental Health Dormitory Accommodation at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust**

Report presented by: Paul Sheldon, Chief Finance Officer, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)

Samantha Wood, Head of Strategy, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)

Executive summary:

1. The Government has pledged to eradicate dormitory accommodation in mental health settings with additional investment for organisations to do this. In LPT we are replacing the dormitories with single rooms, improving the safety, privacy and dignity of patients suffering with mental illness. LPT's programme has been funded with £9.25 million from the government to achieve this.
2. The eradication of dormitories will improve the individual care that can be given to patients, allowing them to reduce the length of their stay in our services. It will also have benefits for patient safety, including better infection control and a reduction in the risk of incidents involving patients or staff.
3. LPT received approval from NHS England & Improvement to proceed with a large-scale programme of works to eradicate dormitories from 4 adult acute wards at the Bradgate Unit, 2 older adult wards at the Evington Centre and 2 older adult wards at the Bennion Centre and one eating disorders ward at the Bennion Centre. The scope of works included the upgrade of a ward for a local decant (and to avoid use of out of area beds).
4. Works commenced in earnest in early 2020 and were split into 4 phases;
 - a. Phase 1 (completed)
 - i. Bosworth ward – Bradgate unit
 - ii. Thornton ward – Bradgate unit
 - b. Phase 2
 - i. Ashby ward – Bradgate unit (completed)
 - ii. Aston ward – Bradgate unit (07/03/22 – 29/07/22)
 - c. Phase 3 (21/03/22 – 03/03/23)
 - i. Coleman/Wakerley ward – Evington Centre
 - ii. Gwendolen ward – Evington Centre

- d. Phase 4 (15/08/22 – 02/10/23)
 - i. Kirby ward – Bennion Centre
 - ii. Welford ward – Bennion Centre
 - iii. Langley ward – Bennion Centre

Building on CQC Feedback:

5. In the previous Joint HOSC report provided by Angela Hillery (LPT's Chief Executive) it was explained how the CQC had visited last year and assessed how safe, effective, caring, responsive, and well-led services are. They selected three of our 15 core services for inspection: All 3 were mental health services.
6. The outcome from the CQC inspection included:
 - Improved core service ratings as the Trust no longer have any core service rated Inadequate overall.
 - A focus on areas where we must do more to ensure our fundamental standards are being met.
7. The CQC asked that we must make further estates improvements in:
 - Eliminating our dormitory accommodation/ensuring our ward environments do not compromise privacy and dignity
 - Ensuring all patients in our adult mental health wards have access to personal alarms should they need assistance
 - The timeliness of repairs in our wards and storage of patient's personal possessions
8. The CQC recognised that we have improved in a number of our mental health areas. and reported that there has been "an improved safety culture" at LPT. Areas of particular improvement are:
 - We have eliminated completely the number of adults requiring care in acute Mental Health beds in hospitals outside of Leicester ('Out of area placements'). We have sustained this position throughout the pandemic in recognition that receiving care closer helps families and service users to stay connected and leave hospital quicker
 - Improved seclusion environments, where a mental health patient is observed separately in a quiet space
 - Eliminated mixed sex accommodation, which ensures men and women aren't sharing facilities and therefore have better privacy and dignity

Building on Patient and Staff Feedback:

9. The work has been programmed in a phased way to ensure that feedback and learning from each ward development is captured and used to inform the design of the next ward.
10. Patients have reported that the wards have a much brighter feel, more room and that they feel safer.

11. Staff have reported; "I have found the approach to be a really positive experience and the quality of the work, communication and approachable style of everyone involved has been wonderful. It has been a rewarding experience to see the faces of some of the front-line clinical staff & patients when they walk back into their new environments and the feedback from patients has been so positive."

The works has included:

- The creation of single en-suite bedrooms
- New modern social areas in our wards
- State of the art safety doors
- Anti-ligature radiator covers
- Re-positioning of fire detector heads in patient rooms
- New furniture inc. profiling beds
- New wet rooms
- Fresh paint all through
- Improved accommodation within our staff rest room
- New larger vision panels into patient lounge areas
- Additional Wi-Fi provision
- Patient and staff call points with access to personal alarms should they need assistance

Summary:

12. Eliminating dormitory accommodation is a key element of our Step Up to Great Strategy, we are making good progress and improvements, committed to continuing at pace with the proceeding phases.
13. We would like to recognise the programme partnership approach; how our front line service staff have been working tirelessly throughout this Covid pandemic to ensure the progress of the work, the estates team, architects, construction partners and most importantly, our patients who have been really helpful in sharing their experiences with us and managing the transition so well between wards when moves are required for the works.