


Agenda Item 7

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	22 January 2020
Subject:	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: Older Adults Mental Health Home Treatment Team

Summary:

Over the past two years there have been important improvements to mental health services for older people (generally termed for people aged over 65 years) provided by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Good progress has been made with the engagement and support of stakeholders, patients, carers and staff, working together. This paper sets out some further proposals for consideration by the Committee.

Demand for older adult mental health services is increasing as the population ages. There are some gaps in services plus some wards that have dormitory sleeping areas that do not support good care. The ambition is increase community support; offer care close to home; deliver 7 day a week services and have hospital care available to the best standard only when needed.

The Older Adults Mental Health team piloted a Home Treatment Team (HTT) model whilst upgrading an existing Older Adult Ward to meet modern standards (Brant Ward, Lincoln). The HTT model proved successful and evaluated well. LPFT is committed to making continuous improvements in these services and the next phase of these is described.

Actions Required:

To provide feedback to Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on its proposal to continue the Older Adult Home Treatment Team service as well as re-opening the refurbished Brant Ward in Lincoln, to be funded by the temporary closure of the Rochford Ward at the Pilgrim Hospital site, Boston.

1. Older Adult Services

In April 2019, representatives from Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust presented to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire and updated on the Older Adult Home Treatment Team (HTT). The HTT was set up in October 2018 to provide a community facing service to support patients with functional mental illness, who would otherwise have been admitted to Brant Ward, Lincoln. The Trust set up the HTT service as a pilot service whilst estates work was undertaken to upgrade Brant Ward to meet modern NHS privacy and dignity standards. The HTT covers the entire county of Lincolnshire.

The older adult Home Treatment Team (HTT) was set up to service the temporary loss of Brant Ward, a functional mental health inpatient unit with 20 beds, in order that a full refurbishment of the ward could take place. Functional mental health conditions include, for example, people who are living with depression. This refurbishment is to improve the patient experience, providing single en-suite rooms to improve privacy and dignity.

The HTT is a community based service focussing on admission avoidance and supporting early discharge from hospital. The HTT became operational in October 2018; its operational hours are 8:00am-8:00pm Monday to Friday and 10:00am-6:00pm at weekends and public holidays.

The April 2019 report to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire was a five month report on the HTT (October 2018 to March 2019) and summarised a very successful pilot, where the HTT was achieving excellent quality and financial outcomes. This has continued over the period since April 2019 to the current date. In the first five months of operation, the Home Treatment Team demonstrated significant positive outcomes across the three areas of clinical effectiveness (fewer admissions and reduced length of stay); patient and carer experience (100% patient satisfaction with the service) and patient safety (fewer clinical incidents such as patient falls and improved medication optimisation).

The upgrade to Brant Ward at Witham Court in Lincoln, to create single en-suite bedrooms and improve the ward living spaces, is now complete and the ward is ready to reopen.

In April 2019, LPFT colleagues indicated to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire that the re-opening of Brant Ward would allow us to think about future configuration of Older Adult Services, including the balance of service between inpatient and community services.

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is proposing to continue the current service model with one functional older adult mental health ward (Brant Ward, Lincoln) and a county-wide HTT.

The Trust is therefore proposing to transfer the in-patient ward from Rochford Ward in Boston, on the Pilgrim Hospital site to the newly refurbished Brant Ward in Lincoln when it re-opens in the early New Year of 2020.

Rochford Ward is not fit for purpose, it is on the first floor, which restricts patients access to fresh air; it is also has beds in dormitories, which is not conducive to mental health recovery and does not meet Care Quality Commission standards for care environments. Re-provision of Rochford Ward would require capital investment and a move to a ward on the ground floor.

This change will mean that patients that need an inpatient bed will need to travel to Lincoln instead of traveling to Boston but the HTT will mean that fewer people need to be admitted. Admitting fewer people is one of the known impacts of introducing the HTT.

This change will involve travel for (fewer) patients requiring admission, however this is currently the case as people travel now for a bed (for example patients travel from Boston to Lincoln for admission as well as from Lincoln to Boston depending on bed availability) – and there will be the HTT in place to support people at home. This community service will enhance access for patients and responsiveness as the service operates on a 7 day a week basis.

Rochford Ward, Boston, will be temporarily closed with the staff working into the HTT model or in other services. There will be an additional HTT hub created in Boston to accommodate the community HTT team.

LPFT recognises that this is a difficult decision to take and will work in partnership with Clinical Commissioning Group colleagues to evaluate the impact of this change if made.

There would then be a full report and evaluation to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire at a time to be decided by the Committee. Direction on further engagement and public consultation requirements would be taken at this time.

2. Conclusion

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) is committed to a vision of providing care as close as possible to people's homes. For people living with mental health problems, their carers', friends and families we are keen to explore new ways of working to build capacity in communities. There is also a need to improve the quality of the physical environment for the wards that LPFT operates in order to protect patient dignity and privacy as they receive inpatient care and treatment.

There are some challenging decisions to be made on the balance of inpatient and community facing services. This paper sets out the proposed direction. Information and updates will be shared with the Committee in line with the Committee's recommendations on this proposal.

Throughout the development of this proposal there has been on-going engagement and involvement of patients and carers. This engagement work will continue as we co-develop thinking and plans on future service shape for this care group.

3. Consultation

There are issues for consultation arising from this report.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jane Marshall, Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, who can be contacted via jane.marshall3@nhs.net