

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust  
Transfer of Wards from St. Mary's Hospital to Queen Alexandra Hospital

## Introduction

The purpose of this short paper is to brief the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel of proposed changes to the location of three hospital wards.

The Trust would like to seek the support of the HOSP to progress these plans as it believes that the proposed move will provide enhanced benefits to patient care.

## Current Position

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, in partnership with other healthcare provider organisations, delivers specialist inpatient rehabilitation services from three wards on the St Mary's Hospital site in Milton.

These are:

- Guernsey ward – 20-bed stroke rehab for adults aged 65 and above
- Exton 5/6 wards – 27-bed general rehab for adults aged 65 and above
- Phoenix ward – 10-bed rehab for younger adults with predominantly neurological conditions

## Proposal

As a result of shorter lengths of stay in acute specialities within the Trust, an opportunity has arisen to relocate these three services into clinical areas at the redeveloped Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The Trust is pursuing this as a priority on account of significant identified benefits for clinical quality, an improved patient experience, and operational efficiencies.

These benefits include:

- Better access to medical cover, enabling the services to start patients on rehabilitation pathways at an earlier stage
- A clinical adjacency to acute beds that will provide enhanced capability to perform face-to-face assessments of patients listed for rehabilitation, ensuring that patients move through the system quickly into the appropriate clinical environment
- Proximity to the redeveloped hospital's state of the art facilities including a therapies gymnasium and purpose built ADL (Activities of Daily Living) kitchen
- A smoother and less complicated transfer of care with improved access to diagnostics, for patients who become acutely unwell whilst in the rehabilitation service
- There will be no longer be a need to transfer this group of patients from Queen Alexandra Hospital to St. Mary's Hospital.

## **Process**

Clinical teams from the three services have been involved in assessing potential new locations at the QA site. Work is underway to map the requirements of specialist rehabilitation to these areas and agree any building alterations.

There is a shared will between organisations to make the moves happen as quickly as is practicably feasible and discussions are underway with key stakeholders including Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust, Hampshire Primary Care Trust and the Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Notwithstanding the building works involved the Trust would like to complete this project by early January 2010.

## **Public and Patient Involvement**

A Public and Patient Involvement plan is currently being produced to ensure that users of the services are fully informed. This will be shared with the Local Involvement Network and the Portsmouth HOSP and will take into account the communication needs of the patient groups involved in this move.

It is planned that involvement will take place using the following methods:

- Continual dialogue with the Local Involvement Network (LINK)
- Discussions and meetings with relevant patient groups to answer questions and address concerns
- Displays and Information points throughout key locations
- Visits by patient groups, members of the LINK and HOSP to the proposed accommodation
- Information on the PHT website

## **Staff Involvement**

The process of addressing the views, concerns and ideas of staff involved in providing these services - on both a collective and an individual level - are critical to the success of this project.

All provider organisations involved are committed to working closely in partnership to develop the approach to consultation with staff, and to deliver appropriately open and regular engagement with all affected stakeholders.

Some discussion has taken place at a senior level between PHT and Portsmouth City PCT, and a steering group will be formed to oversee the development of the approach.

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