

Proposed temporary relocation of Rembrandt Ward from St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth to Wimbourne Ward at St. James' Hospital Portsmouth

Background

Estates and Facilities Services

Estates and Facilities are a hosted service of NHS Portsmouth. The Directorate provides a full range of professional and technical estates and facilities management services across the local health economy excluding the Queen Alexandra Hospital site. During the interim arrangements prior to the opening of the St Mary's Community Healthcare Campus in early 2010, the Estates and Facilities Service now manages arrangements at St Mary's Hospital.

St Mary's Community Healthcare Campus

The site at St Mary's is currently run by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT). PHT has notified NHS Portsmouth that it proposes to reduce operating costs to erect a hoarding and begin demolition of the western two thirds of that site.

A direct consequence of this hoarding is the impact upon the service known as Rembrandt Ward which is currently provided by Solent Healthcare from a ward area directly linked to the Exton Block at the western end of the site.

The erection of the hoarding and demolition works means that the Rembrandt Ward will not have services to support to the delivery of patient care. These services include water, electricity, telephones and information and communication technology.

Options

Discussions have taken place with Portsmouth Hospitals and Solent Healthcare regarding the best option for the temporary relocation of the Rembrandt Ward service until the new St. Mary's Community Healthcare Campus is completed in early 2012.

A number of options were considered, including:-

- the use of the empty Guernsey Ward at St. Mary's
- wards at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham (QA)
- wards at St. James' Hospital (SJH)

Considerations

The following estates and facilities factors were taken into account in the evaluation of options:-

- Proximity to Rembrandt Ward at St. Mary's
- Condition of current facility
- Disruption
- Proximity of other services
- Timescale
- Cost

Resume of options

Guernsey Ward

This ward has not been used since the Guernsey Ward service was transferred to Queen Alexandra Hospital, along with Exton 5 and 6 wards, earlier this year.

Whilst this building is very close to the current Rembrandt Unit, the condition of the internal environment of the Guernsey Ward has deteriorated in that time. In addition, vandalism of the building has resulted in theft of lead from the roof and broken windows, etc. This has contributed to the degradation and this together with the lack of maintenance over time is reflected in the costs to bring the environment up to an acceptable standard.

Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham

The transfer of patients from Rembrandt Ward to Queen Alexandra Hospital would involve moving them the four miles and it is understood that this would not be supported by either the Commissioners (NHS Portsmouth) or the service provider, Solent Healthcare, except as a last resort.

Wards at St. James' Hospital

The service provider, Solent Healthcare, has looked at various locations for the temporary location of the Rembrandt Ward on the St. James' Hospital site which is less than a mile from St. Mary's Hospital.

Of the various options and configurations of patient services possible, Solent Healthcare favours the temporary use of the former Wimbourne Ward. The patients from which transferred to the recently opened facility of 'The Limes' on the St James' Hospital site. Wimbourne Ward is an integral facility within the main St James' Hospital building. It therefore does not suffer from the same problems as Guernsey Ward at St Mary's of being isolated and detached from the main hospital. The condition of Wimbourne also means the cost to reinstate the area as a ward facility is less than reinstating Guernsey Ward. Moreover, there are other Solent Healthcare staff and services

provided from St James' Hospital and the Wimbourne Ward will not be next to a demolition site for the length of stay of the patients.

Staffing

Estates and Facilities Services staff (domestic and hotel services plus maintenance staff) would transfer with the service to its new location, unless Queen Alexandra Hospital was the chosen option.

Conclusion

From an assessment of the six factors, the best outcome for Rembrandt Ward patients would be the temporary use of the former Wimbourne Ward at St. James' Hospital. It is less than one mile from the current location, it is in a good environmental condition, there would be no planned major disruption to the care of the patients, (that is, demolition of adjacent buildings), there are other Solent Healthcare services on the St James' Hospital site, the timescale for the adaptations is short and the cost is much less than conversion of Guernsey Ward at St Mary's Hospital site.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to consider this paper providing the estates and facilities factors in support of the option to temporarily relocate Rembrandt Ward to Wimbourne at St. James' Hospital.

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