

Spinnaker Ward

On Wednesday 25 January 2012, Spinnaker Ward, based on the St Mary's Community Health Campus, opened as a 16 bedded step down (admission from an acute hospital) and step up (admission from home) unit for Portsmouth City patients provided by Solent NHS Trust.

The opening of the ward marked a milestone in the delivery of a new integrated health and social care model of care for older people as part of a jointly commissioned single community pathway for intermediate care and rehabilitation,

In partnership with Portsmouth City Council Social Services, Spinnaker ward delivers a Community Consultant Geriatrician led specialist multidisciplinary rehabilitation service alongside the Victory Unit (Adult Social Care Residential Rehabilitation Unit) and the Portsmouth Rehabilitation and Re-ablement Team.

This new pathway supports the transition from illness to recovery for older people by delivering a spectrum of responsive treatments and time limited rehabilitation to achieve; better outcomes for patients and more effective use of resources in line with National strategy and Commissioner intentions.

Spinnaker Ward currently provides a step down facility following an acute hospital stay in Queen Alexandra Hospital (Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust). In future step up beds on the ward will be developed to prevent avoidable admissions to acute hospital where appropriate.

The primary aims of Spinnaker Ward are:

- To provide timely, comprehensive, person centred assessment and intervention
- To facilitate timely transfer of care following hospital admission, providing active rehabilitation and support that will enable people to maximise their functional potential and regain/maintain their optimal level of independence
- To achieve the best health and well being outcomes for patients with a specific medical, nursing or therapeutic need for which the rehabilitation resources of the ward are appropriate.
- To minimise the need for long term intervention from statutory services
- To provide care as near the patient's home as possible in a safe environment
- To provide a safe, quality service that promotes dignity and supports choice for older people

Between the opening date and the end of April, 80 patients had been admitted to the ward - staying for an average of just under 19 days. Surveys are now being undertaken of patient experience on the ward and comments from patients so far are very positive - *'excellent care and lovely staff'* .

Now the new ward multidisciplinary team has been established work is planned with local GPs to establish the pathway for 'step up' admissions.