

January 2022

Report for Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Briefing note:

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust

Portsmouth and South East Hampshire area specific update

Introduction

This paper is a routine update for the panel, covering relevant developments in the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire area from Southern Health. The previous update was provided in September 2021.

Included below are updates on how we have been responding, alongside system partners, to the current challenges from COVID-19 and existing winter pressures.

Updates are also provided on Petersfield Urgent Treatment Centre, improvements at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, The Willow Group, our Eating Disorder service, and our work with primary care to develop community mental health services.

System and winter pressure work

The system has faced significant pressure with the rise in COVID-19 cases, flu and the usual winter pressures. Southern Health has played a key role in the preparation for these pressures and in the current response.

Additional beds have been installed at the Clarence Unit at Woodcot Lodge and in the community hospitals at Gosport and Petersfield to relieve pressure on the acute hospital.

Senior clinicians (matrons, practitioners and consultant nurses) have been supporting colleagues in South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and at the Emergency Department at Queen Alexandra Hospital to prevent people being taken to Hospital, providing treatment and support to stay safely at home. This has been achieved through rapid mobilisation of a 2-hour urgent community response service manned by community matrons and the community assessment units. As a result, we saw over 800 admission avoidance contacts taking place in the month of November. SCAS report a 10% reduction on conveyance as a result of these pathways.

As part of the system-wide response to the latest wave of COVID-19, we have played a key role in the vaccination programme. This includes:

- Working alongside primary care to deliver booster vaccines to vulnerable, housebound patients who are unable to attend vaccination clinics. Over 4,000 patients were boosted by Southern Health teams before Christmas.
- The Trust, with partners, delivered the highest national vaccination rate for 12-15 year olds in the country. We are now in the process of rolling out the second dose programme for this age group.

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- Trust staff continue to be redeployed to mass vaccination sites in Hampshire to form part of the vaccination workforce.
- We are working to support people with severe mental illness, learning disabilities and other potential barriers to access the vaccine.

Gosport War Memorial Hospital: Enhancing Rose and Poppy Wards

We previously updated the panel on our successful bid for funding, following the government's announcement of £400million to help eradicate dormitories in mental health wards, to update Poppy and Rose Wards at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Poppy Ward has been successfully welcoming patients to its new, dementia friendly environment whilst Rose ward has been able to complete its refurbishment. Patient and carer feedback has been positive, and the team are established in the new system across the ward.

Rose ward has been handed back to the Trust from the contractor and we are currently adding finishing touches to the environment to be able to welcome patients in January.

Rose ward has been enhanced to make the environment even safer for patients at risk of self-harm, whilst being a therapeutic space to support recovery. This has been achieved through careful and detailed ligature risk management.

The Older Peoples Mental Health Intensive Support Team (IST) continues to be successful in supporting patients in the community and reducing the requirement for hospital admission for both patients with functional mental illness and those with dementias. The IST continue to enhance their ability to support the system through in-reach into hospitals to support safe and timely discharge.

The IST has been essential to allow the works to be completed on both wards and we look to continue with this model as part of the ongoing Transformation of OPMH services.

Petersfield Hospital - Urgent Treatment Centre

The Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) is open 8am-8pm every day at Petersfield Community Hospital and can treat anyone over the age of one, who requires urgent treatment for minor injuries and illnesses, for example where their condition is urgent enough that they cannot wait for the next GP appointment but who do not need treatment at the emergency department.

The UTC is manned by a team of highly skilled nurses and emergency practitioners with medical oversight from Dr Andrew Holden at Swan Surgery. The X-Ray machines at Petersfield have been updated and the opening hours will be extended to a seven day service as soon as the staff to man the machines have been recruited.

Willow Group

The recruitment of GPs continues to be a challenge across primary care, including at the Willow Group of practices in Gosport. We are working closely with the CCG to help us meet this challenge and are pleased to announce we will have two new GPs joining the group and are in the process of training two more. In light of the national shortage of GPs this is incredibly good news and will go a long way to relieving pressure and the challenges that some people have experienced with access. Scores relating to patient care and quality of care remain on or above local and national averages and following a re-inspection by the CQC the group retained its 'Good' rating with the regulator CQC.

Two international GPs from South Africa are due to complete their clinical supervision period in January, and will join the performers list as UK GPs. Two further GPs due to arrive in January – February and will follow the same induction and clinical supervision process.

The Willow Group Covid vaccination programme is ongoing. In December, the team delivered 54,000 covid vaccinations and boosters.

Willow Group engaged with the population health management programme to support identified health inequalities and find solutions for the local population.

Eating disorders service

As previously reported to this panel, nationally and locally there has been a significant increase in demand for eating disorders services, both for adults and young people. We are responding to this by working closely with the CCG to add capacity, and via two projects: a physical health monitoring service and developing a new model for specialist eating disorder beds via the emerging Dorset Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provider Collaborative.

The physical health monitoring service has been successfully recruited to and staff have undergone training in many areas including taking blood and ECG monitoring, they have spent time in the service and are ready to start clinics. The GP recruited to the service is due to start soon and then clinics can commence. Further GP recruitment is underway. Engagement with Primary Care is planned and the service will support the CCG to undertake this to deliver a comprehensive programme of support across Primary and secondary care services. This is currently on hold due to current pressures.

The Dorset Hampshire and Isle of Wight provider collaborative has started and processes and relationships are developing well. Collaborative Board meetings have been established. Our aim is to work alongside partners to develop a model for adult eating disorder beds which is better suited to the needs of our local population. Bed management process are developed between providers to provide access to beds for the population.

Community mental health transformation and Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme

The Trust has been working on the transformation of its Community Mental Health services, a core part of which is the implementation of the 'no wrong door' principle across the area. This is a national programme of transformation which includes primary care and the local voluntary sector. The no wrong door principle means that any individual presenting for help is given the appropriate care and treatment needed, regardless of where they initially go to ask for it and that the care available is integrated to provide wrap-around support. As part of this work we applied for the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS). The scheme allows us to bring in additional mental health roles and for the funding for this to be split between the PCN and the Trust. We are pleased that the ARRS application was successful and we have recruited talented practitioners from across the country. Supporting roles are being recruited to, so the local development and delivery of a model that meets the need of the local population can be implemented. Southern Health community services are developing the teams and new roles to focus on local delivery alongside the Primary care Networks.

More information

If you have any questions, please contact Nicky Creighton-Young, Director of Operations Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Division (PSEH): Nicky.Creighton-Young@southernhealth.nhs.uk