

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2016

WYRE FOREST COMMUNITY UNIT

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to receive an update on the Wyre Forest Community (GP-led) Unit, following the announcement that this facility would close.
2. Worcestershire Health and Care Trust will re-provide Intermediate Care beds on a ward located on the Kidderminster Hospital site.
3. The transition of this service will happen in early October 2016.
4. Representatives from the Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and Worcestershire County Council have been invited to the meeting.

Background

5. The Wyre Forest Integrated Intermediate Care Programme is a multi-agency programme which was established in 2014, to look at how best to provide intermediate care type services for the Wyre Forest population, through identifying new models of intermediate care, outside of hospital. This fits with national policy to move away from inpatient bedded units and towards more care provided in the community and in patients' homes.
6. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group have all been involved in this work, and representatives set out the aims of the Programme to the HOSC at its meeting on 10 September 2014 meeting.
7. The guiding principle behind the Wyre Forest Integrated Care model is that everyone should have the opportunity to recover from an injury or episode of ill health in their own bed instead, whenever it is safe for them to do so. Evidence suggests that this leads to better clinical and functional outcomes. This will also allow us to make our services more resilient to meet the challenge of an ageing population.

Wyre Forest Community Unit

8. The Wyre Forest Community Unit (WFCU) is a community based residential unit, providing intermediate care and rehabilitation services, often for elderly patients who are not ready to return home.

9. The Unit takes referrals direct from GPs to support admission avoidance and supportive diagnostics. This facility has 20 beds.

10. This Unit is based on the Kidderminster Hospital site (Block A) and managed by Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust (WAHT). The medical input is provided by local General Practitioners (GP) and each patient is cared for by their own General Practice.

11. The WFCU takes approximately 29 patients per month and has an average Length of Stay (LOS) of 20 days.

12. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has been aware of the increased focus on a more integrated community model, which has subsequently led to uncertainty about the future of the unit. This uncertainty and the Trust's concerns about the environment of the Wyre Forest Community Unit, including the condition of the building, led to the Acute Trust advising the CCG that it no longer wishes to provide this service. The Acute Trust asked the CCG to consider how this service could be provided within a proposed new model.

13. The CCG considered feedback from the public and GPs on the need to have some bed provision within the Wyre Forest area that is part of a sub-acute community pathway and would meet the needs of complex older people.

14. WFCCG have reviewed a range of options for re-providing this part of the model, with a focus on available estate at the Kidderminster Hospital site. Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust (WH&CT) owns a number of buildings on the site and were asked to develop a proposal to re-provide Intermediate Care beds. A proposal was received in response with options for 8, 12 and 16 beds, located on the Kidderminster Hospital site on the currently vacant Whitley Ward. Capital investment from the Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust is required to refurbish this ward to the compliant standards expected.

15. The Alliance Board and member GP practices favoured the 16 bed proposal.

16. Although there is a reduction in the current bed capacity from 16 to 20 beds this will be offset by the expected reduction in length of stay and the new Integrated Community teams supporting an increased flow through this unit. This also allows us to retain the service on the Kidderminster Hospital site which was a key theme for our engagement events.

17. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust served notice and therefore the new service is required to be up and running from 1 October 2016, although there is flexibility in this date pending agreement between Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust

18. The Health and Care Trust has indicated that there may be a slight delay in the construction programme but this will only be a few weeks. This delay will not stop the transfer of the service to the Health and Care Trust on the 1 October.

Legal, Financial, and HR Implications

19. Transfer of Undertakings (TUPE) regulations applied and this has been managed by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust

Purpose of the meeting

20. HOSC members are invited to:

- consider and comment on the information provided
- determine whether any further information is required at this stage

21. The Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests a number of questions to ask when scrutinising NHS service redesign or reconfiguration:

- what is the purpose of the proposed redesign or reconfiguration?
- how extensive, inclusive and adequate is the consultation process?
- how will access to services be affected?
- what demographic assumptions have been made in formulating the proposals?
- what provisions are being made for the effects on patient flow of initiatives around choice and commissioning?
- what is the clinical evidence on which the proposals are based?
- how will proposed reconfigurations contribute to joint working?
- how will the proposals help the NHS achieve its health improvement goals and reduce health inequalities?
- what infrastructure will be available to support redesigned or reconfigured services?

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agendas and Minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 September 2014, 15 July 2015 and 27 April 2016