



A 'Better Care Closer to Home' Consultation Fact-sheet: Evidence of a declining need for older people's mental health beds

About the consultation

The proposals in the 'Better Care Closer to Home' consultation are about changes to services for two groups of older people who use community hospital services. Those who are recovering from an accident or illness after a spell of inpatient care at an acute hospital and those who have dementia. The proposals would mean the majority of these care needs would in the future be met in, or near to, older people's own homes as long as it safe to do so rather than provided in a community hospital as currently happens.

Why have we produced this fact-sheet?

We have produced fact-sheets about aspects of different topics that may be of interest to people, organisations and individuals wishing to respond to the consultation.

What is this fact-sheet about?

It relates to services for older people with dementia who are presently admitted to a community hospital because of a crisis relating to their dementia symptoms and the proposal to provide more care either in or nearer to these patients' home. This fact-sheet sets out Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust's (a 21C partner organisation) experience of improving care that has led over time to a declining need for its existing older people's mental health beds.

Evidence

Generally we have been making improvements to the way care is provided in North Derbyshire for some time by increasing the amount of care we are able to provide safely in or near to people's homes. These patients receive the care they need with least disruption and avoid the unwanted effects of an unnecessary or over-long hospital stay. As a result we are now less reliant on traditional community hospital bedded care. Our local provider, Derbyshire Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, requires fewer beds for inpatient care. This is demonstrated by the reduced number of admissions and length of stay for people who do need inpatient bedded care over the past four financial years:

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	% change
Admissions	366	363	313	287	-21%
Average length of stay	63.8	61.2	58.8	49.6	-22%

We have been also been studying a new intervention service for people who are having a crisis relating to their dementia which is provided in Derby and South Derbyshire by Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (DHCFT). The Dementia Rapid Response Team (DRRT) began in April 2015. They have quickly shown that the service can support significant numbers of people at home and avoid admission to hospital by providing a timely and efficient expert service. An evaluation of the period 1 April 2015 to 8 February 2016 found it provided 229 episodes of care and the outcome was a 30% reduction of the use of dementia beds and a temporary closure of a 14-bed ward, allowing the temporary redeployment of staff. Service-users were: 49% living in their own home and 51% in care homes. Service-users and carers were universally positive about the service. GPs and other external partners were anecdotally very positive.

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Please refer to two fact-sheets online that set out the experience of the South Derbyshire DRRT and separately further information about the proposed model for DRRT in North Derbyshire.

Furthermore an independent review of the models for community bedded care was undertaken in June 2014 by the East Midlands Clinical Senate. The review panel supported the view that the vision in North Derbyshire for developing the options for integrated out-of-hospital based care is based on sound evidence and best practice. The review panel also supported the view that the local evidence base and modelling assumptions support the proposed scale of change in relation to community bedded care.

The improvements to date and the future direction of travel are consistent with national guidance and best practice including:

- 'NHS Five Year Forward View' (NHS England, October 2014)
- 'Safe, compassionate care for frail older people using an integrated care pathway: practical guidance for commissioners, providers and nursing, medical and allied health professional leaders' (NHS England, February 2014)
- 'Making our health & care systems fit for an aging population' (The King's Fund, March 2014)
- 'Specialists in out-of-hospital settings (The King's Fund, October 2014)
- 'Support. Stay. Save. Care & Support of People with Dementia in their own homes' (Alzheimer's Society, January 2011)
- Studies by Trappes-Lomax et al. (2002) & Lymbery (2002)

Further information

There is further information about our analysis of the available evidence and our proposals relating to this fact-sheet in a PDF online called 'Specialist Older Persons Mental Health (OPMH) Beds', which is the relevant section from pages 24 -33 of the 'Pre Consultation Business Case Stage 4'. Additional fact-sheets and documents are available online at www.joinedupcare.org.uk

Details of our proposals are contained in the consultation document. We encourage individuals and organisations who intend to respond to the consultation to read the consultation document thoroughly before completing the consultation questionnaire.