

A PICTURE OF HEALTH

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE NOTE ON ACUTE PSYCHIATRY

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper sets out NHS Lanarkshire's recommended way forward for the future of acute psychiatry services following the A Picture of Health consultation. It includes the reasons for the recommendation to enable the Board to take a view on this.

1.2 A Picture of Health proposed providing acute adult and old age mental health inpatient services at two general hospitals. It was proposed that one was located in south Lanarkshire at Hairmyres Hospital and one in the north at either Monklands Hospital or Wishaw General Hospital.

1.3 Following A Picture of Health consultation, it is recommended that improved acute adult and old age mental health inpatient services are delivered at Hairmyres Hospital and Monklands Hospital within custom-designed, 112-bedded units that provide a modern mental health service fit for the 21st century. The new facilities will replace current units – on three sites for adult inpatient services and four for old age – which require significant up-grading. There will also be an emphasis on developing more community-based services as an alternative to institutional care.

2. Reasons for two-site option

2.1 Providing all acute adult and old age mental health services on one general hospital site in the south and one in the north will benefit patients as a result of better delivery of care (2.2), improvements in medical staff rotas (2.3) and links with community health partnerships and local authorities (2.4).

2.2 The recommended changes will enable NHS Lanarkshire to provide rapid access to a wider range of clinical services on each site than at present. They will also allow the development of high quality, sustainable mental health services in a way that the existing arrangements do not. Specifically, this includes:

- Better access to specialists due to their concentration on two sites.
- Improved outcomes for people who require longer stays in hospital through access on site to a wider range of treatments, such as psychosocial therapies.
- Patients seen by inpatient staff with increased skills as they will be dealing with a larger number of inpatient assessments at each site.
- Quicker assessment of patients so that, where suitable, they can move from hospital care to more appropriate community care sooner.
- Provision of old age inpatient wards in fit for purpose units on acute hospital sites allowing easier access to investigations and out-of-hours medical cover.

2.3 The changes will also allow the reorganisation of rotas to cope with workforce pressures on medical cover that exist within the current arrangements. The benefits of this include:

- Less dependence on junior doctors. Existing rotas are unsustainable as the European Working Time Directive significantly reduces the number of hours junior doctors work.
- Improved capacity of senior medical staff allowing more daytime clinical activity.

2.4 The proposed configuration of acute mental health services will also lead to improved communication and efficiencies as a result of alignment and integration with community health partnerships and local authorities.

3. Consideration of options

3.1 Monklands Hospital is the recommended site of acute psychiatry services in the north, as this will deliver the greatest overall benefit to patients in Lanarkshire. Services are being developed to provide a high level of support to areas such as Clydesdale which have traditionally used acute psychiatry services at Wishaw General.

3.2 Logistically, the benefits set out in section 2 can be achieved earlier with Monklands as the site for the north. The unit will have 112 beds and there are currently only 69 acute psychiatry beds at Wishaw General. There will be no additional capacity within Wishaw General Hospital to expand the number of acute psychiatry beds. Therefore, a new purpose-built unit would be required regardless of which site was chosen. This can be built sooner at Monklands Hospital as there is existing land available on the site.

3.3 A psychiatric liaison team will continue to be on site at Wishaw General. This means that patients arriving at the hospital will be assessed by an experienced mental health professional. They will ensure the patient has the right care package in place and arrange escorted transfer and admission to the unit at Monklands or Hairmyres if necessary.

3.4 NHS Lanarkshire's mental health strategy is aimed at providing more treatment, support and care within community settings and less in inpatient settings. This means patients who would have traditionally received inpatient care at Wishaw General will be able to access a wider range of support through health and social work teams within health centres or GP practices.

3.5 The decision on whether Monklands or Hairmyres becomes a planned care or emergency hospital has no impact on the delivery of the benefits set out in this paper.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Board is asked to approve the recommended option of developing community-based mental health services and providing acute adult and old age mental health inpatient services at Hairmyres Hospital and Monklands Hospital, where inpatient care is necessary, for the reasons set out in this paper.

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