



Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

September 2018

Briefing on the Review of the Frank Lloyd Unit, Sittingbourne

1. Introduction

This purpose of this paper is to provide the Committee with a briefing on a review of the Frank Lloyd Unit in Sittingbourne. The unit is an older person's inpatient unit operated by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT). It provides a bed based service for individuals with complex dementia with behaviours that challenge and who are eligible to receive NHS Continuing Healthcare. The unit is accessed by all CCGs in Kent and Medway.

2. Background to the Review

A CQC visit in January 2016 highlighted concerns over staffing numbers, gender separation and the case mix of the patients which the Trust had to address. Also, a number of patients were receiving end of life care, alongside individuals who had challenging behaviours. CQC were concerned that the unit still had a philosophy of a 'bed for life' and were not moving people on as their needs changed to more appropriate settings. Staffing was increased following the inspection and the unit now has a good rating from CQC.

Since the inspection, KMPT and the Kent and Medway CCGs have taken a more proactive approach to the management of patients in the unit and as challenging needs subside, patients are repatriated to more homely environments in care homes (nursing) closer to home and the unit is no longer seen as a 'home for life'. This has resulted in an ongoing decline in patient numbers and there are currently now only 10 patients in the 30 bedded unit with plans to move a number of these individuals to more appropriate environments in the next few weeks.

3. Strategic Context

The trend over recent years has been for mental health trusts to withdraw from the provision of NHS continuing health care as this is no longer viewed as their core business. The strategic direction of travel is to support individuals in the community where possible, and in Kent, the majority of individuals with dementia and who are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare receive their care in more homely nursing home environments in the independent sector.

For many families in Kent, Frank Lloyd Unit is not a local facility and travel to the unit can be problematic, particularly as the next of kin is often an elderly spouse, often with their own health problems.

4. Focus of the Review

Activity levels in the unit have remained low for a number of months and commissioners are confident they will remain low and are likely to reduce further. This brings into question the long term viability of the service in its current form and therefore it was jointly agreed between CCGs and KMPT that a change of approach is required for this client group.

The focus of the review is therefore to develop proposals which will transform the service, so that it can be delivered in the community, much closer to home.

The review is due to be completed by the end of October 2018 and there are a number of actions to be completed during that time, including:

- engagement of carers and other stakeholders to help to shape an alternative service.
- market engagement with care homes (nursing) to ensure sufficient and appropriate capacity to manage this care group.
- development of a model of specialist community and care home support.

5. Conclusion

A more detailed paper will be presented to HOSC with a recommendation for a future service once the outputs of the review are known. However, in the meantime any comments which members of the committee may wish to make would be very welcome. These should be forwarded to Linda Caldwell, Thanet CCG, linda.caldwell@nhs.net