

## **Redesign of Inpatient Services for Older People with Mental Problems in the Eastern and Coastal Directorate of the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust**

### **Introduction**

In 2004, a comprehensive review of all mental health inpatient services (i.e. both younger and older adult) in east Kent was undertaken. The recommendation for younger adult services presented to and accepted by the Health and Social Services Joint Decision Making Committee, was the centralisation of all acute inpatient beds in a new unit on the St Martin's site in Canterbury.

However, the Joint Decision Making Committee did not accept the proposals for older adult services as they were devised in the absence of a whole systems strategy. The one recommendation which was accepted by the Joint Decision Making Committee was that, wherever possible, beds for older people with mental health problems should be co-located with District General Hospitals (DGHs) in recognition of the fact that this care group very often has co-existing physical problems.

### **The Strategy**

A strategy which was agreed by both health and social services was completed in 2005 and was also presented to and supported by the HOSC. It describes a five tiered model, ranging from health promotion at one end of a continuum to long term care at the other. Tier four is concerned with acute assessment beds.

One of the principles described in the strategy is the delivery of services locally and caring for individuals in their own homes wherever possible and was to be achieved by increasing community services.

No changes to inpatient beds were proposed in the strategy as it was not possible to do this until the impact of increased community services was known.

Significant investment has been made into community services over the last two years. Additional investment has been made in the community mental health teams (CMHTOPs). A home treatment service and an Admiral nurse service has been established in Canterbury, Dover/Deal and Thanet. The home treatment service delivers support to individuals in their own homes and its aim is to prevent hospital admission and facilitate discharge. The development of this service has allowed the closure of 15 beds on the St Martin's site. It is proposed to establish home treatment services in the remaining localities, i.e. Ashford, Shepway and Swale in 2009/10.

The investment is part of a five year joint commissioning plan between health and social services and 2008/09 is year 3 of that plan.

## **Inpatient Redesign**

The increase in community services has allowed the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT) to develop a proposal for the future configuration of its inpatient services.

An additional driver for the redesign of inpatient beds is the fact that the beds currently located in the old St Martin's hospital were refurbished in 2005. This was achieved by the use of temporary buildings, for which the City Council granted temporary planning consent which expires in 2010. It is KMPT's long held intention to move out of these buildings, which are over 100 years old, by that date.

However, two units (Kelston and Discovery) have been taken out of use in recent years. They were stand alone units, with the associated risks identified in the Rowan Ward enquiry.

The loss of these beds has not resulted in any pressure on the remaining bed stock. This is a result of increased community support as well as changes to processes, ie

- More patients eligible for NHS continuing healthcare being cared for at home.
- The introduction of a more robust assessment and review process and beds no longer being a 'home for life'.
- Greater use of the private sector for patients eligible for NHS continuing healthcare.
- The introduction of the home treatment service which allows individuals to receive rehabilitation in a community setting.

The HOSC is invited to support these developments in line with the 2005 Strategy, which has enabled the closure of the Kelston and Discovery units.

## **Current Position**

There are currently 91 beds for older people with mental health needs. There are no plans to reduce the number of beds at this time, but what will differ is where they are provided. The proposed number of beds has been validated by an external expert in 2006, and will be subject to ongoing review to take account of changes in need and demand, and service redesign.

The current distribution of beds is given below:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Arundel Unit, William Harvey Hospital, Ashford | 20 beds |
| St Martin's, Canterbury                        | 45 beds |
| Thanet Mental Health Unit, QEQM, Margate       | 26 beds |

A long list of options for the future provision of inpatient services was developed by a multi agency stakeholder group. These options were assessed against a set of agreed criteria. The outcome of this exercise was that four potential options (including a do minimum option) were identified.

The options are described in more detail below. However, there are two constants in all the options.

- i) In order to reinforce that services are delivered on the basis of need (rather than age), 15 of the beds currently provided on the St Martin's site will be provided in the proposed new functional unit which was agreed by the Joint Decision Making Committee.
- ii) The number of beds in the Arundel Unit will be increased from 20 to 30 which reflects current patient flows.

The proposed distribution of beds in each of the options is shown below:

| Location                              | Number of Beds |           |           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                       | Option 1       | Option 2  | Option 3  |
| New unit, St Martin's                 | 15             | 15        | 15        |
| Arundel Unit                          | 30             | 30        | 30        |
| Thanet Mental Health Unit             | 31             | 46        | 31        |
| St Martin's (in addition to new unit) | 0              | 0         | 15        |
| Kent and Canterbury Hospital          | 15             | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>91</b>      | <b>91</b> | <b>91</b> |

### Consultation Process

The three options described above (plus a do minimum option) are currently the subject of a consultation process. The consultation will be concluded in August 2008.

### Acknowledgements:

Linda Caldwell – Commissioner for OPMH Services, Eastern & Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust, Protea House, New Bridge, Marine Parade, Dover, Kent CT17 9HQ  
Tel 01304 222219, [linda.caldwell@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:linda.caldwell@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk)

John Carey – Director of Capital Planning and Major Projects, Kent & Medway Partnership Trust, Eastern & Coastal Area Office, Trust HQ, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1AZ  
Tel: 01227 865819, [john.carey@kmpt.nhs.uk](mailto:john.carey@kmpt.nhs.uk)