



Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

July 2019

## **Update on the Review of the Frank Lloyd Unit, (FLU) Sittingbourne**

### **1. Introduction**

Following the briefing which was submitted to HOSC in September 2018, this paper provides an update on the work which has taken place since that date to review the Frank Lloyd Unit in Sittingbourne. The Frank Lloyd Unit is a continuing health care inpatient ward, provided by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT). The unit 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. The strategic direction of travel and focus of the review is to develop a service which can be delivered in the community, much closer to home in a nursing or care home environment, with an enhanced community service that will provide support both during the transition into the home as well as responding to incidents of challenging behaviour and provide care home staff with the skills to manage individuals with complex dementia.

The work has not progressed as swiftly as anticipated and as was indicated in the paper presented last year. This has largely due to the complexities of working across a number of organisations across Kent and Medway, each of which has its own governance processes and requirements. So in order to enable this process to be completed in a timely manner a Project Lead has recently been appointed to focus on this work. Due to the sensitivities around the closure of the unit and the importance of the engagement with the patients, carers and families it was felt appropriate that this takes place first before being presented publicly at HOSC in September. Careful consideration of whether the proposed changes meet the threshold for communication and engagement and broader public consultation are also being considered in order to inform recommendations.

### **2. Update on current provision of care at FLU**

KMPT have a variety of measures in place to monitor quality of care such as regular audits, and frequent visits from a matron and members of the senior management team. KMPT are regularly reviewing & reporting on staff retention, ensuring appropriate and consistent staffing levels using Safer Staffing measures. This is important as staff are aware of the proposed changes and KMPT acknowledge the importance to ensure the service remains safe. KMPT are working closely with commissioners to ensure any concerns or issues are escalated.

### **3. Work Completed to Date**

A significant amount of work has been undertaken with clinicians to develop the case for change and to develop a draft, comprehensive model of care which will be community based and can be delivered closer to home. This draft model will be used to engage with service users and carers and other relevant stakeholders to ensure it will meet the needs of this client group.

The unit continues to function and, currently, the number of individuals being cared for in the unit is seven, compared to ten at the date of the last HOSC report. These individuals are re-assessed on a regular basis to ensure their needs are being met and, if appropriate, will be moved to a more suitable service.

#### **4. Next Steps.**

Individual meetings are being planned with the patients, carers and families of the current service users, these meetings will take place during August and September. The purpose of these meetings is to share the proposed model of care and to gain input to shape the final service. Carers will also be provided with re-assurance that their family members will continue to receive the most appropriate care in the most appropriate setting.

A detailed programmed of communication and engagement is planned with all other stakeholders.

#### **5. Summary**

A detailed paper on the progress of this review will be presented to HOSC in September, which will provide a comprehensive overview of the new model of care; the outcomes of the engagement process and the project plan.

However, in the meantime any comments which members of the committee may wish to make would be very welcome. These should be forwarded to Jacquie Pryke, Project Lead for Frank Lloyd Unit, NHS West Kent CCG, [jacqueline.pryke@nhs.net](mailto:jacqueline.pryke@nhs.net)