

Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee

9

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	8 September 2015
Officer	Director for Adult and Community Services
Subject of Report	Changes to the Provision of Services at Portland Minor Injury Unit
Executive Summary	The purpose of this paper is to outline the reasons for the current temporary changes to opening hours of the Portland Community Hospital Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), which is provided by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (DHC) and plans for future provision.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: N/A
	Use of Evidence: Report provided by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust.
	Budget: N/A
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: HIGH /MEDIUM/LOW (Delete as appropriate) Residual Risk HIGH /MEDIUM/LOW (Delete as appropriate) <i>(i.e. reflecting the recommendations in this report and mitigating actions)</i>

	<i>proposed)</i>
	Other Implications: None.
Recommendation	That the Health Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the temporary changes made to opening times at Portland MIU and the proposals for future delivery of the service.
Reason for Recommendation	The work of the Health Scrutiny Committee contributes to the County Council's aim to protect and improve the health, wellbeing and safeguarding of all Dorset's citizens.
Appendices	<p>1 Changes to the Provision of Services at Portland Minor Injury Unit, Dorset HealthCare NHS University Foundation Trust.</p> <p>2 Concerns for the Portland Community regarding the loss of cover at Portland MIU, Paul Kimber, Councillor, Portland Tophill.</p>
Background Papers	None.
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Ann Harris, Health Partnerships Officer Tel: 01305 224388 Email: a.p.harris@dorsetcc.gov.uk

CHANGES TO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AT PORTLAND MINOR INJURY UNIT

1 AIM OF THIS PAPER

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline the reasons for the current temporary changes to opening hours of the Portland Community Hospital Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), which is provided by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (DHC) and plans for future provision.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 DHC's MIUs provide nurse led assessment and treatment of non life-threatening injuries and illness for adults and children. The MIU service in Portland Community Hospital is provided by a single-handed practitioner. Reception cover is provided from the out-patient clinic, Monday to Friday.
- 2.2 The MIU is a satellite service to the larger Weymouth MIU. X-ray facilities are available in Portland, three half days per week.
- 2.3 During 2014/15 3111 patients attended the unit, with an average of 8 patients per day at the weekend.
- 2.4 The neighbouring Weymouth MIU is situated 5.8 miles away, and open 7 days a week including Bank Holidays from 8am – 10pm. X-ray facilities are available Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm. There is always a minimum of two trained nurses and a receptionist on duty in the Weymouth MIU. The service benefits from being co-located with the GP Walk-in and Out-of-hours services extending the assessment and treatment range available to patients attending.
- 2.5 It is an on-going challenge to attract staff to MIUs; specialist qualified staff often prefer to work in busier Urgent Care / Accident and Emergency services. As a result, the Weymouth and Portland service has at times been reliant upon temporary staff, including Agency Nurses, to cover rosters. This came to a head earlier this year, when DHC was unable to cover every shift at Portland Hospital safely with staff who were familiar with the unit. The small pool of permanent staff made it particularly difficult to safely staff all weekend shifts. As a result there were a number of unplanned closures.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 In light of the above, with effect from Monday 13 July 2015, the Trust has temporarily revised the opening times of Portland MIU to Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Outside of those hours, people are able to attend the Weymouth MIU. The revision in opening times means that for the foreseeable future the MIU will not open at weekends.

- 3.2 This decision was taken following discussion with key stakeholders.
- 3.3 The Trust is continuing to endeavour to recruit to its vacancies, including running a local recruitment day in September and exploring alternatives including working with the Dorset County Hospital to develop rotational posts between the MIU and A&E Department.
- 3.4 The Trust believes that no one has been put at risk as a result of the closure.

4 **OPPORTUNITIES**

- 4.1 The Clinical Services Review fully supports the need for effective and personalised services outside of acute hospitals for those people with non-life threatening needs. To deliver the vision, the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group is working with providers on 5 key areas for change:
- Providing better support for people to self-care;
 - Helping people with non-urgent care and minor ailment needs get the right advice in the right place, first time;
 - Providing highly responsive urgent care services outside of hospital so people no longer choose to queue in A&E;
 - Ensuring those people with more serious or life threatening emergency needs receive treatment in centres with the right facilities and expertise in order to maximise chances of survival and a good recovery;
 - Connecting primary care, urgent and emergency care services so the overall system becomes more than just the sum of its parts.
- 4.2 There has been excellent progress in Weymouth and Portland Locality with providers coming together to develop a clear plan to deliver the vision. It is an exciting time, bringing together primary care, community services, A&E specialists and community pharmacists to provide a comprehensive service.
- 4.3 Dorset HealthCare is committed to working with its partners to ensure that the service model also meets the needs of the Portland population. The Trust will continue to monitor how services are used by local people so that we can be as flexible and accessible as possible

5 **ACTION**

- 5.1 The Dorset Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note this report.

Sally O'Donnell
Dorset Locality Director
19 August 2015

Concerns for the Portland Community regarding the loss of cover at Portland MIU

1. Portland can be cut off from Weymouth usually in the winter, when major storms hit the island. When this happens the Portland Beach road is always closed.
 2. Portland residents have already been in touch with me voicing their concerns about the distance Portlanders have to travel if they do not have access to a car.
 3. Summer time the population does greatly increase with more cars and coaches in Weymouth and Portland; with this increase in traffic travelling can be very difficult around Boot Hill getting through to Weymouth & District Hospital.
 4. We have campaigned for an ambulance for many years to be stationed on the Island because of our concerns about getting Portlanders to hospital in an emergency; by losing this facility there will be more strain on the existing ambulance service.
 5. The Search and Rescue helicopter stationed in Underhill has an uncertain future. This is another life line for the local Portland community with its helipad, that has provided an excellent service mostly for rescues at sea.
 6. I have noted that young people and visitors are undertaking more and more dangerous sports i.e. Rock climbing or sail boarding especially when the sea is rough; this could also be a strain getting young people to hospital.
 7. Portland Port has 20 cruise ships a year docking in Portland Port, and commercial shipping also coming into the Port without much medical care on board. Plus there are many divers at weekends diving for pleasure in the Harbour. I have been informed that seafarers have asked the local community for advice regarding medical assistance in Castletown and been directed to the Portland Hospital.
- As Chair of Weymouth Port health I have been concerned for some time about proper medical back up to the Seafarers' community.
8. I understand our local doctors' practice is also very strained regarding the out of hours work which they might have to undertake to provide local response.
 9. People from Wyke Regis are using the service.
 10. I recommend we advertise the M.I U. service in the Free Portland news with a monthly newsletter or other newsletters.
 11. Lastly the population on Portland is growing with new housing developments completed this year in Weston and Easton and the changes. I suggest before closure we look at our demographics: our population is getting older and I have noticed at my surgeries the problems for the elderly are becoming far more common.

CLlr Paul R Kimber (Portland Tophill).