

Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	7 June 2016
Officer	Sally O'Donnell, Dorset Locality Director, Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust
Subject of Report	Specialist Dementia Services across Dorset
Executive Summary	<p>This brief report seeks to inform Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee of a change to service provision at the Chalbury Unit in Weymouth and the implications for patients and carers. The change (a transfer of services) has arisen as a result of unsustainable staffing shortages.</p> <p>It is proposed that all NHS inpatient care beds for older people with dementia are provided at Alderney Hospital while options are considered for the provision of specialist dementia services across the County of Dorset. Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust are making adjustments to the environment at Alderney Hospital to accommodate an additional 8 beds.</p> <p>Proposals to introduce different services in the West of Dorset are currently under development. Affected patients, relatives and staff are being consulted about the changes.</p>
Impact Assessment: <i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>Report provided by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <hr/> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Report provided by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust.</p>

Specialist dementia services across Dorset

	<p>Budget:</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>Report provided by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>That Members consider and comment on the changes outlined within the report.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>The work of the Committee contributes to the County Council's aim to protect the health and wellbeing of Dorset's citizens.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>1 Briefing paper from Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust.</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>None</p>
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**DORSET HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST
BRIEFING NOTE
DORSET HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
SPECIALIST DEMENTIA SERVICES ACROSS DORSET**

1. CHALBURY UNIT, WEYMOUTH

- 1.1 Chalbury Unit in Weymouth is an inpatient unit providing specialist dementia services for patients with moderate and severe dementia. The unit looks after patients that have extremely challenging behaviours that mean that patients need to be detained under the Mental Health Act. It has up to 12 beds and for the last year has operated at no more than 8 patients at any one time, due to local demand. This level of occupancy has also enabled the Trust to manage safe staffing levels.

2. KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 There is a national and local shortage of registered nurses available to work within specialist dementia inpatient services. The work within specialist inpatient services is very demanding and complex. This is not a new problem and the difficulties in recruiting a skilled workforce have been recognised locally for over 2 years.
- 2.2 The Trust has continued to actively work to recruit and retain a skilled workforce to provide the highest quality care to our patients in Dorset. Despite the best efforts to employ the appropriate number of registered nurses required the Trust has not been successful thus far.
- 2.3 Chalbury Unit's environment is based on an old orthopaedic ward layout and on the 1st floor with limited access to outside space. Despite upgrades to the flooring and decoration the environment continues to be unfit for purpose for patients with dementia.

3. ADMISSIONS

- 3.1 In the last 12 months the profile of admissions to specialist dementia inpatient beds across Dorset is as follows:
- 30% West of the County
 - 7% North of the County
 - 64% East of the County and Hampshire borders
- 3.2 The majority of admissions to Chalbury Unit are from individuals who live in the West of the County. This pattern has not changed for 2 years. Of the total number of admissions to specialist inpatient beds across Dorset, 22% have been to Chalbury

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that all NHS inpatient care beds for older people with dementia are provided at Alderney Hospital while options are considered for the provision of specialist dementia services across the County of Dorset. We are making adjustments to the environment at Alderney Hospital to accommodate an additional 8 beds.

Specialist dementia services across Dorset

- 4.2 During this time it is also proposed to introduce a limited Intermediate Care Service for Dementia (ICSD) and this will operate initially from Monday to Friday 9-17:00. This will complement the increase in diversity and scope of community services for people with dementia and their carers by offering a rapid and intensive response to help maintain care in the place of residence, and facilitating access to inpatient care if necessary. The proposed changes focus on developing a service which can support people in their own home for a short period of time, whilst they require intensive support, to prevent the need for a hospital admission.
- 4.3 For the future options the Trust is actively working with Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in the Dorset wide Dementia services review to ensure the right services are commissioned and provided across Dorset for patients with Dementia.
- 4.4 Whilst future options are being developed the Trust is working in partnership with Dorset County Council to ensure the 5 patients currently on Chalbury are found suitable placements for their on-going care needs. The Trust will minimise the need for a double move for any patient requiring specialist care and has robust plans for transferring existing patients to Alderney if absolutely necessary.
- 4.5 The Trust is talking directly with families of patients currently in Chalbury Unit to ensure that if their relative is moved to Alderney, that travel arrangements, such as a personal taxi service, will be provided for them. Bespoke travel arrangements will also be agreed with any future families of patients requiring admission to Alderney Hospital who live in the West of Dorset.

Linda Boland

Locality Director Poole & East Dorset

25 May 2016