



Monday, 20 July 2020

## Update on West Yorkshire and Barnsley Assessment and Treatment Units (ATU) for people with a Learning Disability

This information has been produced to update you on the work taking place across the area on assessment and treatment units. It is a follow up to the briefing paper shared in February 2020.

### Background

There has been extensive work to develop a West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership (also known as an integrated care system) proposal to move from three to two [assessment and treatment units](#) (ATUs) across West Yorkshire and Barnsley.

In February 2020, it was agreed that we would start further public engagement on the proposal to close the Leeds unit and provide a regional service from two generic units based in Bradford and Wakefield (on two of the three current ATU sites). This proposal was shared with health and wellbeing board chairs, council leaders, local overview and scrutiny committee chairs and West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (WY JHOSC).

Leeds was identified as the unit to close primarily because it is not co-located with other mental health provision or on a hospital site. Co-location is a key requirement of ATU provision as set out in the national specification document. This is because it supports safety and resilience within the units.

As discussed with WY JHOSC in February 2020, further engagement, with the support of Inclusion North, was planned to start in April 2020. Due to COVID-19 and the lock down in March, the engagement work was put on hold as advised by NHS England. This was in line with their [Good practice for working with people and communities during the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

During the first few weeks of the pandemic, services focused on maintaining the delivery of inpatient services under intense and difficult circumstances. The Leeds ATU (based at Parkside Lodge) was relocated to another site as part of the COVID-19 response within the Leeds and York Partnership Trust (LYPFT). This was to allow the relocation of another service (the perinatal service) to Parkside Lodge. This in turn allowed the development of a COVID-19 dedicated space within the older peoples mental health services.

The two people who were receiving care at the Leeds ATU at that time were provided with alternative accommodation at Woodland Square (adjacent to the respite provision for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and challenging behaviour). This currently remains the site for the ATU provision in Leeds, where two people are currently receiving inpatient care. To ensure the three ATUs continue to maximise the best support available (and work together effectively to maximise resources during the COVID-19 period) weekly operational meetings take place.



An example of how working collectively has improved the quality and safety of people's care can be seen in the example of staff from the Leeds unit supporting the Bradford unit in relation to one person who needed additional male staff to support him (the Bradford unit did not have enough male staff to consistently deliver this).

### **ATU engagement**

With this in mind, we are now proposing a more targeted approach to engagement. The numbers of people receiving care at the ATU are lower now than before COVID-19 and the Leeds unit has been repurposed.

We believe it would be more purposeful if we continued to engage with people accessing care and their families throughout in one to one conversations and also with the ongoing involvement of staff, patient reps, community organisations etc. via the steering group and targeted if necessary throughout plans to work as one system rather than a structured public engagement approach.

We remain committed to developing a clearer understanding of any outstanding concerns or unexpected impacts that this change will have for those accessing care and their families. We recognise the need to engage in a different way to our plan set out in February 2020.

### **What next?**

The West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership's, ATU Steering Group will continue to develop the detailed steps that will move towards working as a single excellence model.

Working together across the three units has brought early advantages, with more work to be done to align processes and procedures to ensure there is a consistent offer/standardised approach across the services.

There are four work streams:

- Single operating framework
- Governance and quality assurance
- Admissions pathway
- Discharge pathways.

The four work streams will report progress to the monthly steering group meeting, which in turn then reports to the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership (WYHHCP) Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board.

We are fully committed to openness and transparency and keeping people, their families and carers fully informed and involved. Given the ongoing COVID-19 challenges and not wanting to alarm people further when they are settled, we are proposing that the engagement approach outlined above now takes place via the steering group and with those directly accessing care, their families and carers.



### **Further information**

For more information, please contact Andy Weir ([andy.weir@nhs.net](mailto:andy.weir@nhs.net)), Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Andy is also the senior responsible officer for the ATU work.

**ENDS**

