



Future model for the delivery of health services for adults with a learning disability in Sheffield

Sheffield Health & Care Partnership– 11/12/23

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Purpose of the Update

To inform the Health and Care Partnership of completed work to implement a new planned model of care for the enhanced delivery of specialist community health services for people with a learning disability (LD)

This service covers the population of people with LD, but who may also present with autism

However, this service does not describe service delivery for autistic people who do not have learning disability, as this is a separate although connected workstream



Background

The Sheffield Learning Disabilities Service previously commissioned by Sheffield ICB consisted of 3 teams provided by SHSC NHS FT:

1. Community LD Team (CLDT) - specialist health assessments, diagnosis, support, and care for people aged 18 and above
2. Community Intensive Support Service (CISS) – an intensive level of support by an MDT for those with severe behaviours of concern and distress/MH needs, risk of placement breakdown/hospital admission
3. Firshill Rise Assessment and Treatment Service (ATS) – 7 inpatient assessment & treatment beds and support for behaviour that is challenging to support/mental health

The Firshill Rise Unit has been voluntarily closed by SHSC since 2021 for admissions due to quality concerns raised by CQC. **This provided an opportunity to review the offer in light of changing needs, national strategic direction and good practice**

Changing needs for inpatient learning disability services



Demand analysis over the last 5 years predicts that we now only require capacity for between 1 to 2 people to be admitted to specialist LD inpatient provision in a 12-month period vs the commissioned 7 bedded LD inpatient unit at Firshill Rise



After Firshill Rise closed to admissions in May 2021, no increase in the need for out of city hospital placements was recorded



This reduced demand is down to successful partnership working on admissions avoidance under the Transforming Care Programme since 2015. At the start of this programme, there were 26 people in long stay hospital placements in and out of city, and frequent in year admissions



An audit in SY of “Safe and Wellbeing Checks” completed in 2022 revealed 33% of LD inpatients in South Yorkshire did not require to be in an inpatient setting



People with LD have been more appropriately placed and supported through in city MH acute wards through “green-light working” an approach to improve their care

What service user feedback told us

Extensive service user engagement was carried out with our partners, Disability Sheffield and Sheffield Mencap Gateway, over winter 2022/23. This was complimented as good practice by the HCP, NHSE Assurance Panel and NW Clinical Senate:

Feedback from this engagement activity highlighted a positive response to enhancing community specialist clinical services to provide more support for individuals and their families to prevent avoidable admissions to LD inpatient services.

However a number of concerns were highlighted including:

Increased travel for family, friends and carers to any individuals that did need to be placed in out of area hospital settings.

Oversight of the quality and outcomes of out of area hospital placements.

Mitigations to these concerns were built into the design of the future model.



New Enhanced Community Model

- A single pathway
- A strengthened central point of access
- A phased extension to operating hours and on call support at the weekend
- Increased clinical and support staff, including new roles
- Enhanced partnership working across LA, primary care, STH and SCFT
- Further implementation of the national “Greenlight Toolkit” guidance to better support people in inpatient MH acute wards and enhanced support to those who do need admission to an inpatient MH unit
- The introduction of more evidence-based outcome measures
- A more consistent application of the national programme to Stop Over Medication of Patients with a LD/A (STOMP)
- Working more collaboratively with SHSC autism specialists



Agreed way forward

Considering the evidence and engagement feedback, and working with partners and NHS England Assurance Checkpoint process, Sheffield ICB has approved investment into a more sustainable LD community offer (SPET Nov23).

Key elements of this model are:

1. Firshill Rise is not reopened, as it is not an effective model of care that we routinely require in Sheffield, and does not represent good use of NHS money considering the reduction in need now present in Sheffield for this type of provision
2. The resources released from the closure will be reinvested into a redesigned and enhanced community Learning Disabilities service model
3. Establishment of joint arrangements between Sheffield Place ICB and SHSC to commission an appropriate specialist hospital bed if and as required with enhanced oversight of any such placements

Next steps

