

SCRUTINY BOARD (HEALTH) LOCALISATION OF SERVICES INQUIRY

WHARFEDALE HOSPITAL - UPDATE MARCH 2009

This briefing paper provides a general update and set out the clinical areas where significant changes have happened since September 2008.

Bilberry Unit

Bilberry Unit opened on Monday 5th January and consists of 13 Community Integrated Care (CIC) beds; they are provided by LTHT on behalf of NHS Leeds. These 13 beds were previously an integral part of Ward 1.

The purpose of the unit is to provide 'sub acute' care closer to home. This is achieved by supporting discharge from acute hospital beds into the 'community'. There are many reasons why patients sometimes cannot go straight home e.g. patients unable to go home due to being alone, or patients who require a period of rehabilitation. Patients being admitted to CIC beds should however be medically fit. This means that CIC beds are therapy-led involving multi-disciplinary working between nurses', physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

Another key role for the unit is to avoid the need for acute hospital admission for patients who may need further assessment, treatment or care which cannot happen at home. They may have suffered 'functional decline' and became too dependant to remain at home. Patients continue to be cared for by a GP but are not unwell enough to need a hospital admission. These patients often benefit from the slower paced environment offered here at Wharfedale.

Patients and relatives frequently tell us that they want to be cared for 'closer to home' and Bilberry Unit's CIC beds allow this to happen, patients and relative frequently welcome this environment rather than have to travel to Leeds.

Cancer Treatment Unit

A new nurse-led cancer treatment service opened at Wharfedale in January 2009. This means cancer patients in Otley and the surrounding area together with north Leeds can now benefit from chemotherapy and other supportive treatment much closer to home.

Two cancer nurses who currently deliver the treatment at the St James's Institute of Oncology travel to Wharfedale Hospital two days a week to provide this additional service, supported by an advanced nursing assistant.

It has been specially tailored to the needs of residents of north Leeds and the surrounding area already undergoing treatment at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. A range of chemotherapy as well as blood transfusions, iron infusions and other supportive treatment can be safely delivered in Wharfedale Hospital, meaning local patients do not have as far to travel.

Patients will have their initial assessment at the regional cancer centre at St James's and then be given the opportunity to have their treatment at Wharfedale Hospital.

The unit is based on the 1st floor of Wharfedale Hospital and can treat six patients at any one time. Typically treatment times last from half an hour up to five hours, so the capacity is expected to be around 8 patients on each of the two days once the service is fully established.

Day Case Surgery

As a result of an evaluation of surgical services 6 overnight stay beds have been re-introduced 3 days per week as of 1st August 2008 with medical support cover for these three days per week.

In order to maximise the opportunities for overnight stay it was agreed to rotate the 3 nights on a 2 weekly basis. As a result of these changes there has been a rise in session theatre utilisation from 66 % in general surgery to 89%. Work continues to investigate how the remaining theatre space can be better utilised

Out patient Services

Out patient activity at the hospital continues to rise with new services being commenced on a regular basis. Examples include urology, ENT, a cardiac arrhythmia clinic, and a nurse-led incontinence clinic.

Direct booking service now available for most of the clinics, those that aren't available through direct booking are being addressed and it is hoped they will be on line soon. Discussions are underway with a number of services within the Trust about setting up additional and new clinics at the hospital.

Diabetes care

Emphasis over the past year has been to give patients the choice of returning to their GP for their care where it is appropriate. Wharfedale was unusual in Leeds in providing services that could be provided in a primary care within the hospital.

The remaining diabetes service remains stable and new referrals are still being received. In addition a PCT led community diabetes clinic is now being provided out of Wharfedale Diabetes Centre (this is in the hospital) by PCT staff to help ensure effective use of resources.

Day Hospital

The services which were traditionally provided out of the day hospital have now been relocated and are provided by the physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments at the hospital. This has enabled the vacant space to be used as an educational and multi-use area.

Pre assessment / Preadmissions

In April an expanded preassessment / preadmission department will transfer into the vacated Day Hospital suite. Since the increase in activity and with better scheduling of patients for theatre and new MRSA screening requirements the service needs a bigger department. The vacant preassessment department will now enable outpatient services to expand further.

Ward 1 – Older people

Care for older people remains an important element of hospital care for many people in the area. Currently patients are admitted to the Leeds General Infirmary prior to being transferred

to Wharfedale Hospital. This gives access to diagnostic tests which only occur on the LGI site to be done more quickly before transfer to a more appropriate care environment.

Ward 1 is able to offer limited direct admission service if beds are available and the patient is deemed suitable for the site.

Urgent Care

The NHS Leeds urgent care procurement has now been concluded. From April 2009 Local Care Direct , a social enterprise company, will provide emergency dental services, minor illness and injury walk-in services at Wharfedale Hospital, GP out-of-hours appointments and home visits.

The specific changes relating to Wharfedale Hospital are:

- Introduction of GP appointments out-of-hours & weekends
- Expansion to provide nurse-led minor illness services
- Improved seamless care pathways as a result of one organisation providing both minor injury & illness walk-in services as well as out-of-hours GP appointments

Environment and Infection Control

Wharfedale continues to perform well against infection control standards. There were no MRSA bacteraemias in 2008. C. Diff rates were comparatively low.

In 2008 Wharfedale Hospital was awarded **Excellent** in all areas in the annual Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) Assessment. This work assesses the environment through a user perspective. The team carrying out the assessment includes patient representatives. It covers:

- general and specific cleanliness (toilets and bathrooms)
- Infection control
- Environment (overall presentation)
- Access
- Safety and security
- Food
- Privacy and dignity

Next Steps

Apart from a small amount of clinic space there is no spare accommodation for new services. Our focus now will be to ensure services provided out of Wharfedale are used to their maximum potential.

A very successful GP open evening was held at Wharfedale Hospital in January to help raise awareness of the services available to local GPs. Approximately 10% of the local GPs attended the evening. Further sessions will be held in the future as a rolling education / information giving session.

LTHT

March 2009