

Leeds Teaching Hospitals Briefing Note on Endoscopy Services at Wharfedale Hospital

Background

The Endoscopy service at Wharfedale Hospital is a relatively small – but well thought of – service that cares for a relatively small number of patients (who aren't all exclusively from Otley area post code). As a diagnostic service, patients do not attend the Endoscopy service at Wharfedale Hospital on an ongoing or regular basis.

The Endoscopy service is and will continue to be provided at LTHT's other main hospital sites LGI and SJUH. The locations of the main sites have good road / bus and train connectivity and are therefore accessible for patients requiring the endoscopy service.

LTHT's Planned Care Programme

As part of the Planned Care Programme to support both elective care recovery and a sustainable long-term solution for elective care the proposal is the development at Wharfedale hospital of two new theatres, a recovery area and making an existing ward 24 x 7 (initially 24 x 5.5 days), forming an elective care hub. The developments at Wharfedale will require changes to existing services with some decants required, which will be delivered either through service reconfigurations, utilisation of their existing estate at other locations or re-provision of their estate.

The proposed development of Wharfedale Hospital outlined above, demonstrates the Trusts vision of maintaining Wharfedale Hospital as an important and integral part of its hospital estate and delivering patient care.

Summary of Proposed Change

This main change is the impact on the endoscopy service as noted below:

- The estate area occupied by endoscopy will be required to build the new theatres
- To enable the work to start the estate needs to be available from January 2023. The endoscopy services provided at Wharfedale Hospital will need to cease at this time
- Patient activity will be maintained by the utilisation of existing service / estate provision at SJUH/LGI.
- Staff within the endoscopy unit will be directly affected and will be encouraged to relocate to continue to work within the service at another location (SJUH/LGI). 17 staff members (12.8 WTE) are affected.
- Where staff may have other individual preferences / requirements LTHT will support staff with redeployment opportunities within Wharfedale Hospital or other suitable locations.

The Endoscopy service will continue to be provided at LTHT's other main hospital sites, LGI and SJUH and no redundancies are expected as part of this change.

Staff involvement and engagement

Since communicating with the teams across Wharfedale Hospital regarding this proposal and the potential requirement for staff to consider other working arrangements, e.g. moving to SJUH or LGI, some staff members within the endoscopy team have chosen to seek alternative employment.

The number of substantive staff remaining at Wharfedale does not allow for safe staffing of the two endoscopy suites and the decision was made in discussion with the team for the staff members to work at LGI whilst this is the case.

In addition, staff have been keen for the formal staff consultation process to start as soon as possible despite the precise timescale of the elective care hub work currently being unconfirmed.

Formal staff consultation started on Monday 8 August and closes on Friday 16 September. Two options are being put to staff:

- **Option 1** - Run the endoscopy service at Wharfedale in the lead up to development works
- **Option 2** - In anticipation of the closure and due to difficulty staffing the Wharfedale unit, transition the endoscopy services to the SJUH/LGI footprint

The Trust's **preferred option is Option 2.**

The decision to start formal staff consultation has primarily been driven to eliminate uncertainty around the service closure and possible changing dates of building work which could consequently leave staff members in a state of 'limbo'.

Public and stakeholder engagement

The Trust has identified the need for urgent public engagement and, in consultation with the Leeds Office of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), the Trust is proposing relatively low level / routine activity to provide information about the change to endoscopy in the context of the Planned Care Programme, the £10m investment in Wharfedale Hospital and the overall, wider benefits.

As part of this engagement activity the Trust is building in an opportunity for feedback on any issues/thoughts, however given the details outlined above the Trust is not seeking views on whether or not the unit should close and activity transfer to the Trusts other main sites.

The engagement will involve face-to face information stands at Wharfedale Hospital, stakeholder briefings, a media release, social media posts and website information.

Scrutiny Board involvement

Based on the assessment framework for Scrutiny Board involvement (below), **the Trust is advising the Board of the proposals for the endoscopy service, outlined in this briefing note.**

Assessment framework for proposed service changes / reconfigurations.

DEGREE OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE / VARIATION	SCRUTINY INVOLVEMENT
Category 4 – Substantial or Major variation or development Introduction of a new service, proposed service reconfiguration – changing how/where and when large scale services are delivered.	CONSULT (RED)
Category 3 – Significant variation or development Change in demand for specific services or modernisation of services, changing provider of existing service, pathway redesign impacting on a wide range of people	ENGAGE (ORANGE)
Category 2 – minor change Proposals made based on routine patient/ service user feedback or activity, proposal to extend or reduce opening hours	ADVISE (YELLOW)
Category 1 – ongoing operational change Identified need for modernisation with no / minimal impact on how, where and when patients access services. Changes to support / administration services and other non-patient facing parts of a pathway.	INFORM (GREEN)

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