

Agenda item 11 - AWP Patient Reconfiguration

Responses to Member questions by the Deputy Director of Finance, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

1. Callington Road is not very accessible by bus route. Moving the S136 suite there could be challenging for people who have been detained in severe distress by the police then left to make their own way home. Has there been any discussion with First Bus/BCC or WECA on providing additional bus routes here in preparation for the move? Physical health hospitals are well served by buses and there should be parity, particularly as transport options will impact staff appeal.

Response

One of the conditions associated with planning permission being granted for this development is that the Trust must work up and share a Travel Plan for the site ahead of formal occupation. As part of this we will engage with transport providers around the potential for improving links to the site as it will have benefits for both patients and staff.

2. Despite the budget and move there are no extra beds planned. How many people are currently sent out of the area due to bed capacity, and should this not be an opportunity to increase number of beds?

Response

This issue was also raised during the discussion of the case at the BNSSG CCG Governing Body. As of the time of this response there are currently 36 patients in non-AWP inpatient beds, of which 17 are outside the BNSSG geographical footprint. Part of the issue that this case is seeking to redress is that some of our adult acute wards have more beds currently than the 16-19 beds seen as the recommended maximum number for optimum care.

Therefore, although some extra capacity is initially being gained by the relocation, bringing wards sizes in line with these recommendations does lose some capacity, hence ending up with the same number of beds in the redesigned model. Ultimately, this capital bid is for a fixed amount of funding (£7.5m) which we have to live within and this scheme is seen as giving us the best balance between bed numbers and the advantages that will come from having a single site campus model, combined with significantly improved environments.

Significant investments are also being made into community mental health services at the same time as this development with the intention to reduce the overall demand for inpatient services.

3. The S136 suite that the police use currently sits at Southmead, this is helpful as it means good joint working with physical and mental health. If a patient is brought into the 136 suite and their physical health changes they can receive prompt treatment in the acute ward.

Moving it away from Southmead will mean it takes longer to transfer patients if physical health deteriorates and it could also make things more challenging for the police who may attend A&E with patients. Has there been any discussion with Avon and Somerset Police in terms of the move relating to the 136 suite?

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Response

Although there are some benefits associated with the S136 suite and A&E sharing the same site, there are also some drawbacks, with patients often presenting unnecessarily at one or other location. Our assessment is that the benefits of having the S136 suite co-located with a number of adult acute wards (both from a resilience and patient journey perspective) outweigh the small number of times where there may be the necessity to transfer to an acute hospital from the S136 suite.

The ultimate aim through the system urgent care pathway work is to reduce the number of incidents where the S136 suite becomes a requirement for use for patients, which will also help to avoid any situations as described in the question. The trust intention to relocate the S136 suite back to its original location at Callington Road should the bid be successful has been part of system discussions since the original bid was prepared in 2017 and has been discussed in various urgent care forums of which the police are a key member. As part of the mobilisation of the redevelopment work, further engagement work will be undertaken with the police as a key stakeholder in this process.