

Walsall HOSC April 2022

Bloxwich Hospital Redevelopment



Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust



Why change?

RAT INFESTATION SHUTS DOWN WARD.

[Link/Page Citation](#)

Byline: Report by Richard [Guttridge](#).

A HOSPITAL ward has been closed following the discovery of a rat infestation.

Patients have been moved to another ward at Bloxwich Hospital following the outbreak. The hospital on Reeves Street, provides care for people with mental health problems. Patients were shifted out of the ward following the discovery of the infestation.

The trust which runs the site said "immediate action was taken as soon as the rodents were discovered."

A hospital worker, who did not want to be named, said the ward had to be shut down completely. The ward was closed for a period of time.

"The patients have all been moved down to the main ward."

A spokesperson for Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust alerted to the presence of some rats on one of the wards.

"Immediate action has been taken to maintain the safety of the ward."

"One ward is currently closed as a precautionary measure."

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said he was not aware of the problem.

He said: "Rats are normally associated with food and it is shocking that this should occur in a hospital or food shop."

"If it means the environmental health department could be at risk from what is unfortunately a common problem."

The Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust said.

NEWS BRIEFING

Vital works see patients moved

More than 20 patients have been forced to move to other hospitals due to urgent water maintenance.

A total of 27 patients at Bloxwich Hospital had to move to Dorothy Pattison Hospital in Walsall and Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley yesterday, where they will stay for up to a week.

A spokesperson for Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust said: "As a result of the recent weather conditions there was disruption to the local water supply in Bloxwich, which affected our hospital site."

"During this time we put in place appropriate measures to maintain patient care and dignity ensuring patients continued to have access to facilities."

Patients were due back within days.



The hospital



DISRUPTION

Hospital patients are forced to move

More than 20 patients have been forced to move due to 'disruption to water supplies' following recent bad weather.

A total of 27 patients at Bloxwich Hospital had to move to Dorothy Pattison Hospital in Walsall and Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley yesterday, where they will stay for up to a week after recent weather conditions disrupted to the local water supply in Bloxwich.



Why change?

- Current accommodation at Bloxwich is old and not fit for purpose
- Layout is inflexible and can't provide the right type of space for patient care
- Struggles to meet clinical standards (mixed gender, infection prevention, single bedrooms, accessibility etc.)
- Building maintenance is costly
- All partners and CQC have agreed that an alternative is needed
- **Why now?** A long-standing issue and we have a 'window of opportunity' using the NHSI/E 'Elimination of Dormitory Wards' capital funds for mental health



What is changing?

Inpatient beds at Bloxwich are **currently provided** across two wards:

- **Cedars ward** – 16 beds, both genders (functional disorders such as bi-polar, schizophrenia etc.)
- **Linden ward** – 10 beds, both genders (organic disorders such as dementia)

Proposal - To re-locate the facilities at Bloxwich Hospital to new purpose built accommodation on Dorothy Pattison Hospital site with:

- Purpose-built, ground floor inpatient accommodation (15 functional beds and 10 organic beds)
- Flexible, high quality clinical and support space



Benefits of new plans

- Investment to Walsall for historically underfunded mental healthcare for older people
- Help facilitate highest quality patient care and clinical standards
- Wider group of staff to respond to incidents
- Modern, purpose built accommodation
- Better access to other services in Walsall – adjacent to Walsall Manor Hospital and Dorothy Pattison Hospital (access to DP site facilities such as gym, canteen etc.)
- Good car parking / public transport access
- Minimal disruption for patients, staff and residents



Engagement

- Committed to engaging fully with service users, patients, carers, local residents, staff and partners
- Views informed the business case - will continue to inform development and design of the new facilities
- Initial engagement 2017 – 2020 (posters/flyers, comment boxes, feedback sessions, website information, sessions for local residents, patients and families, information via partners)
- Formal engagement period was 7 June to 31 August 2021 but will continue throughout development



Have your say on proposed changes at Bloxwich Hospital

Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group are announcing some exciting developments to older adult mental health inpatient services in Walsall.

We are aiming to build a new, modern, purpose-built older adult inpatient facility on the grounds within Dorothy Pattison Hospital, Alumwell Road in Walsall. This will mean re-locating the two wards at Bloxwich Hospital.

If you would like to share any comments or feedback with us you can do so by:

-  **Completing the form and posting it in the feedback box in reception at either hospital**
-  **Calling us on 078269 56123**
-  **Emailing bchft.communications@nhs.net**



Black Country Healthcare @BlackCountryNHS - 4s
We want to hear your views around proposals for older adult mental health services in Walsall.

Read more about the plans and share your views via:
blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/about-us/new-h...



information.
t 2021.



Engagement

- Printed materials produced and distributed – community development workers used to target ethnic minority communities
- Articles in partner newsletters including One Walsall and BCH stakeholder newsletter
- Experts by experience briefed and 1:1 discussions for patients and carers (via clinical staff)
- External website page and social media posts
- Display and comment boxes in Bloxwich and Dorothy Pattison Hospitals
- Briefing sessions for staff and updates in BCH newsletters and forums
- Healthwatch Walsall

Engagement is ongoing...



Feedback themes – Patients and Families

Comments about transport, bed numbers and ground floor wards

'I think Bloxwich Hospital is more accessible than Dorothy Pattison Hospital as it has better bus routes and more journeys per hour'

'Having wards on the ground floor will be much more accessible for those who have a disability'



Feedback themes – Public and Residents

Comments about importance that service continues, local residents asking about traffic / parking

*'We need more hospitals
for older people, not less.
The bus service to
Dorothy Pattison is not
as good as bus routes to
Bloxwich Hospital'*

*'I am not too concerned
about the proposed move.
It's more important that
we continue to ensure
the service is available to
those who need it'*



Feedback themes – Staff

Comments about future use of building, positive impact for patients and parking

'It will be wonderful for our patients and staff to have new OA facilities at the DPH site. We need to make sure the parking comes into consideration when developing the plans'

'I am particularly hopeful that dementia patients are admitted to a safe, dementia-friendly environment. I think it's important that areas of the ward are differentiated, i.e. different colour, so it doesn't feel like a rabbit warren or confusing to older people living with dementia'



Timescales



*including demolition of the renal unit and site set-up
JSIC – Joint Strategic Investment Committee



Thanks – any questions?



www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/about-us/new-hospital-build-projects/re-provision-bloxwich-hospital

