

14th July, 2021

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Planned Redevelopment of Bloxwich Hospital

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Health and Wellbeing

1. Aim

To redevelop older peoples' mental health inpatient services in Walsall, currently provided at Bloxwich Hospital.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider, support and give feedback on these proposals. In particular, the Committee is asked to support the stakeholder engagement plan.

3. Report detail

3.1 Bloxwich Hospital provides mental health inpatient services to older people in Walsall. It sits adjacent to the High Street immediately opposite Asda supermarket. It consists of two inpatient wards, other clinical space, a range of accommodation for non-clinical staff and a car park.

3.2 It has been recognised for some time that the facilities at Bloxwich Hospital are not fit for purpose for a range of reasons, including:

- Bloxwich Hospital was not purpose built - it was constructed in 1850 as a private residence and later became a maternity hospital. Compared to the modern healthcare facilities elsewhere in the borough, the building is old and not appropriate for delivering high quality care.
- The layout of the building is inflexible and can't provide the right type of space for good patient care.
- Due to the infrastructure of the building, teams often struggle to meet clinical standards, for example:
 - There are some mixed gender areas;
 - Infection prevention and control standards are difficult to maintain due to the age and condition of the environment;
 - Not all patient bedrooms are single occupancy; some bathroom areas are shared;

- Large sections of the building are not accessible to people with mobility challenges.
 - As a result, the maintenance and upkeep of the building is very costly and the opportunity for significant improvement is limited.
- 3.3 All partners, including the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have agreed that this needs to be addressed and the Trust has been developing plans for an alternative solution. Until recently however, appropriate funding for the redevelopment of the hospital has not been available.
- 3.4 Earlier in 2021, the NHS announced that national capital funding was available to support the 'Elimination of Dormitory Wards' in mental health (that is, ensuring that inpatient facilities provide high quality, single room accommodation). Black Country Healthcare made a successful bid against this financial allocation and secured funding to redevelop Bloxwich Hospital. The Trust has now embarked on the programme of work to finalise the full business case to support this investment and to develop plans to build new, high quality facilities for older people in Walsall.
- 3.5 Although the timescale for developing this full business case is extremely tight, the Trust has carefully considered a number of options for the future provision of older peoples' mental health inpatient services. The preferred option is to build a new, purpose built facility at the rear of Dorothy Pattison Hospital site (adjacent to Walsall Manor Hospital).
- 3.6 There are a number of reasons why this option is felt to be the best alternative to deliver high quality care, as follows:
- It will deliver modern, purpose built accommodation, ensuring that patients and their families have a much high quality experience of care.
 - Being adjacent to the Manor and Dorothy Pattison hospitals, it will ensure that patients have easier access to other relevant healthcare services whilst they are in hospital.
 - It will enable the delivery of the highest quality care and clinical standards.
 - Staff and patients will benefit from greater access to facilities at Dorothy Pattison Hospital site – gym, canteen etc
 - Good car parking and public transport access.
 - Minimal disruption for patients, staff and residents – critically, patients will not have to experience the inconvenience of being temporarily decanted to another site.
- 3.7 The Trust has already undertaken extensive engagement work with staff, patients, their families and local residents in respect of these plans. Post-purdah, this programme of engagement has now restarted (described in further detail to the committee in the presentation which will accompany this paper).
- 3.8 Next steps will be:
- Continue with the programme of engagement with internal and external stakeholders.
 - Complete the full business case to support this investment and seek approval via NHS mechanisms.
 - Work with staff and patients to finalise the design details of the new facilities.
 - Assuming all approvals are secured, begin construction in spring 2022.

- Discussions with partners in the borough regarding potential future plans for the Bloxwich Hospital site.

4. Financial information

The capital investment associated with the redevelopment of Bloxwich Hospital is c£21 million. The plans will be described in a detailed full business case which will need to be approved by NHS Improvement (NHSI/E). There will be no additional revenue consequences as a result of this development.

5. Reducing Inequalities

There is a significant evidence base to demonstrate that mental health problems are a key factor in health inequalities. People with severe mental ill health are known to experience worse health outcomes, have lower life expectancy and poorer access to physical health care.

This plan for investment into mental health services in Walsall is a significant opportunity to contribute positively to addressing these issues.

6. Decide

N/A

7. Respond

All feedback from the Committee will be incorporated into further planning and development work.

8. Review

The Trust will report progress to the Committee at regular intervals.

Author

Marsha Foster
Director of Partnerships, Black Country Healthcare NHS FT
✉ marsha.foster@nhs.net