

**TRUST BOARD
SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

MEETING	Trust Board	Ref No. 5.2 a
DIRECTOR	Mental Health & Intellectual Disability	Date: 13 January 2022
Learning Disability Services – Muckamore Abbey Hospital		
Purpose	This paper provides an update in respect of Learning Disability Services including Muckamore Abbey Hospital	
Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Quality 	
Key areas for consideration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient Numbers and Resettlement 2. Carer and Family Involvement 3. Strategic Developments 4. Leadership and Governance Review Recommendations 5. Department of Health Audit of Adult Safeguarding 6. RQIA Inspection 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Information 	

**Briefing for Trust Board
23 December 2021**

Learning Disability Services

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of issues pertaining to Learning Disability services inclusive of Muckamore Abbey Hospital

1. MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL

1.1 Patient Numbers and Resettlement

As at **23rd December 2021**, there are 39 patients in residence in the Hospital with 4 patients on trial resettlement. One patient remains on extended home leave.

Table 1: Inpatients (inclusive of patients on home leave) and Patients on Trial Resettlement

Trust of Residence	Number of Inpatients	Number of Patients on Trial Resettlement
Northern HSC Trust	17	1
Belfast HSC Trust	13	2
South Eastern HSC Trust	8	0
Southern HSC Trust	1	0
Western HSC Trust	0	1
Total	39	4

Of the patients on site only 2 currently are requiring active treatment - all other patients are delayed discharges.

1.2 Patient Safety

The most recent **Safety Report, Report No 145**, week ending 22 December 2021 is enclosed. This weekly Safety Report sets out performance against a range of patient safety metrics. This report is reviewed by the senior management team in Muckamore Abbey Hospital and shared with the multi-disciplinary team. There is also a weekly Live Governance call for all ward areas to feedback on the previous week's incidents, adult safeguarding referrals and any other governance issues.

There have been an increase of staffing requirements due to the needs of the individual who has been recalled to hospital by the DOJ.

Muckamore will not be able to accept any further patients to any ward without further discharges occurring, including Regional Forensics.

1.3 Staffing

1.3.1 Nurse Staffing

COVID position (week of the 20th December)

We are managing an outbreak in Killead ward, as at 27th December involving 5 patients and 21 patient facing staff, and 6 other supporting staff. All patients are exhibiting mild symptoms and their condition is being kept under close review using the usual outbreak management processes.

We have contingencies in place to bolster staffing levels over the Christmas period including, a small number of additional agency staff, additional hours worked across all grades of staff, other members of MDT to provide cover, day care staff providing cover, Our clinical nurse lecturer will work next week and our Nurse development leads will support teams on the ground as well. Managers on the on call rota will be on site over the weekend and bank holidays as required to provide visible senior leadership cover. At Siobhan's suggestion, I have also requested a communication to go out via the RNLD forum via NIPEC distribution lists and have made contact with the universities to request that their staff would consider providing support to Muckamore as well.

There is a daily site wide call at 08:00 where staffing levels are formally reviewed and any further moves made at that point using IPC guidance. The manager on call will also be involved

We have a small number of patients who will be going on home leave Christmas day and Boxing day and we can facilitate requested family visits for all areas except Killead (due to COVID). All of these visits have been risk assessed and will be in keeping with the COVID guidelines.

As at 17 December 2021, there are 83 members of nursing staff who have had a decision to precautionary suspend. There are currently 74 staff remaining on precautionary suspension, 34 are registrants and 40 are non-registrants and of these 15 registrants and 26 non registrants hold substantive posts in Muckamore.

There are 67 staff who have protection plans in place (supervision and training). Of these 67, 34 hold substantive posts in Muckamore, 15 of whom are registrants and 19 of whom are non-registrants. The total number of staff who have been arrested associated with Muckamore Abbey Hospital remains at 28.

Current nurse staffing levels, with the combination of substantive nursing staff, long-term agency staff and nurse bank staff, are currently providing staffing levels in line with the nursing model. This remains under regular review given the inherent vulnerability of the workforce which comprises 75% agency registrant nursing staff. Nurse staffing levels are reviewed daily on site, and are reported weekly across the senior management team and to the Department of Health. The most recent staffing position of w/c 13 December 2021 can be found in **Appendix 1**.

1.4.2 Medical Staffing

The small team of 2.5wte Consultant Psychiatry team providing input to Muckamore Abbey Hospital continues to represent a vulnerability for the service. The recruitment exercise for the Clinical Director was successful and the candidate took up post with effect from the 30th August. There remains a long-term vacancy in respect of the Chair of Division position.

1.4.3 Adult Safeguarding Staffing

Staffing levels in the Adult Safeguarding service supporting Muckamore Abbey Hospital have been added to the service's risk register. Staffing levels represent a risk to service effectiveness and responsiveness because of sick leave and vacancies. In addition, due to an increase in the volume and complexity of the workload across learning disability services and into the historic team in recent months, additional funding is required to expand the workforce. A paper outlining the required additional investment was tabled at Executive Team in July 2021 and a decision made that funding should first be sought from the Department of Health. DOH colleagues have advised that this discussion should take place with HSCB and a meeting with senior staff in HSCB had been scheduled for September 2021 to discuss. Unfortunately this required postponement and a date has yet to be agreed.

1.5 Covid-19

The previous outbreak in Killead was closed with 4 staff affected and 0 patients.

Unfortunately on Monday 20th December a further outbreak occurred, with as at the 27th December, 21 patient facing staff and 5 patients affected. The Omicron strain has been identified in some samples. Outbreak calls with support from IPC have been established, and a range of increased precautions in place. 5 patients affected continue to exhibit mild symptoms of the infection.

The Muckamore Abbey Site continues to take part in the NHS Lantern screening exercise for all staff on a twice weekly basis.

2. CARER AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

There are a range of ongoing initiatives to enhance the involvement of our carers and families in learning disability services. An update on some of these is included below.

Introduction of Real Time Patient Feedback

Real time patient feedback continues to be captured on a fortnightly basis. The most recent report for Cranfield appears in the appendix 2.

Carer Engagement and Involvement

The newly appointed Carer Involvement and PPI Lead for Adult Learning Disability is continuing to develop her networks and links with staff, service users, families and stakeholders.

Advocacy Review

Terms of Reference for the proposed Advocacy Review have been agreed with HSC Trusts, HSCB and the Trust's advocacy providers. The HSC Leadership Centre have secured two reviewers and initial meeting is to take place in October outlining the scope of the project with the reviewers.

3. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

Admissions Pathway

The NHSCT have had funding approved to open a 3-bedded assessment and treatment inpatient Learning Disability unit in Holywell for their own patients and any from South Eastern HSC Trust requiring assessment and treatment. Our Interim Divisional Nurse for Learning Disability is a member on the Implementation Group and has been maintaining a risk assessment in respect of any likely impact of NHSCT recruitment on the workforce in Muckamore. The original September 2021 timeframe for opening will be delayed due to estates issues; it is anticipated that the ward will now open in April 2022. It has now been established that 2 of the BHSCT Muckamore Abbey substantive staff have been offered posts within NHSCT, 1 whom has submitted their resignation and a further who has advised they have been placed on a waiting list. Both of these staff would be senior on site and this does represent an added risk to stability.

4. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to the Trust Board report in May 2021, a response was issued to the Department of Health on 17 December 2021 outlining the Trust's progress with the Leadership and Governance Review recommendations.

5. Business Cases

Two business cases have been approved at the Strategic Advisory Board and are now progressing. One of these cases, Minnowburn, will be a development within the Belfast Trust area and will provide purpose built accommodation for 5 individuals with complex support needs from Muckamore Abbey Hospital . The site is Minnowburn is currently owned by Belfast Trust and the process of Minnowburn being declared surplus to Trust requirements commenced last month. The Trust await the outcome of the public sector trawl, with housing associations this went live and was circulated to all bodies on the 15th November. No further update on this process is available and we have been advised this may take up to 6 months.

In relation to the forensic business case, the housing association are currently trying to establish a site on which to build. Belfast Trust team have weighted the site options which have been presented and identified the preferred sites for shortlist. This is now with eth housing association to purchase to allow further completion of necessary paperwork.

Appendix 1

Nursing Position 13th December 2021

13 th December 2021	Inpatients	Trial Leave	Total	Plan Nursing wte	BHSC T Staff Available wte	Reg	Non Reg	Agency Block booking	Reg	Non Reg	Other Backfill (bank/add hours/OT)	Reg	Non Reg	Variance after Backfill	% achieved against plan
Cranfield 1	8	1	9	33.04	8.5	1.69	6.81	16	10	6	2.08	0.28	1.8	-6.46	80.45
Cranfield 2	7	0	7	36.21	6.85	1.2	5.65	21.9	12.5	9.4	3.6	0.3	3.3	-3.86	89.33
Donegore	5	0	5	29.31	12.51	2	10.51	9	9	0	5.9	2	3.9	-1.9	93.53
Killead	8	1	9	38.08	14.72	2.58	12.14	28.7	14	14.7	5.4	0.6	4.8	10.74	128.2
Sixmile	10	3	13	37.15	6.01	2.28	3.73	26	19	7	4.5	1.5	3	-0.64	98.29
Total	38	5	43	173.79	48.59	9.75	38.84	101.6	64.5	37.1	21.48	4.68	16.8	-2.12	98.78

We do not count those staff who are on sick leave, maternity leave or annual leave. These are detailed on the table below

Sick Leave			Maternity Leave			Annual Leave		
Reg	Non Reg	Total	Reg	Non Reg	Total	Reg	Non Reg	Total
3.81	17.31	21.12	2	4.42	6.42	6.12	15.07	21.19

Appendix 2

Comments

Muckamore Cranfield 1

22/12/21

I like swimming and pool.

Yes staff are friends.

Yes to privacy and bathroom time.

I like chicken nuggets in the chippy.

Yes I trust doctors and nurses.

Yes to doctors and nurses listening.

Eddie and Dylan are my favourites.

Dylan took me to Londonderry.

I went to Armagh Planetarium.

I clean my hands because of Covid.

I have no pain.

I ask if I need tablets.

It's quiet at night.

Staff are nice and quiet.

Yes to saying good things to friends and family.

I cook Mexican food.

I talk to staff.

I like different sauces on my food.

I like chips.

I get a shower in the morning and a bath in the evening (patient reported pipe broken in Jacuzzi bath in Cranfield 1 - staff on ward notified and estates department notified of repair needed).

I have bad dreams sometimes.

I don't like loud noises.

I have a hare on my windowsill called Brian.

I like singing in mass and church.

I use the whiteboard to write things down when I meet with Dr Millar, I can remember what we talked about when I do that.

There is a difference between staff, permanent staff know more than agency staff, they need more training.

I think Mental Health Teams and Learning and Disability Teams should be separate.

I am pretty involved with all the therapists.

I have great chats with Dr Millar.

I have different types of interactions with different types of staff.

I get medications for pain.

(Patient chose not to answer Q21 - family & friends recommendation - "Don't Know" was selected as response by PE staff)

Update on involvement in LD services – December 2021

Community

- **Learning Disability Forum** - The forum will oversee involvement opportunities for carers and service users in LD services. It will ensure priority areas agreed by the members of the forum are progressed. The forum will meet 4 times per year and is an opportunity for management to speak with carers and service users directly.

The first meeting occurred on the 19th of October 2021. It was attended by 7 carers, 2 service users and 3 members of staff.

The forum was chaired by co director Tracy Kennedy and carer Lorraine Owens was nominated as co-chair. Terms of reference and priority areas to be progressed were agreed by the forum, including accommodation, transitions and meaningful lives and citizenship. The next meeting is planned for early January 2022. Feedback from first meeting was provided by 4 attendees. All agreed that the meeting was useful, they felt listened to and they were able to contribute to the actions from the meeting.

- **Accommodation Group**

Group was established on 28.09.2021 and plans to meet on a 6 weekly basis. 6 carers attended the initial group and at least 4 have agreed to be part of this group.

2 meetings have occurred and there has been clear actions being taken forward by the group. This includes the progression of a carer information booklet and accommodation options available in the Belfast Trust.

2 carers who attended provided feedback reporting the meeting was useful, they felt listened to and they were able to contribute to the actions.

- **Transitions Group**

Group was established on 29.09.2021 and plans to meet on a 6 weekly basis. 4 carers have expressed their interest in being part of this group.

1 meeting has occurred and terms of reference for group has been agreed. Due to challenges in staffing at present the meetings have had to be postponed until there is an appropriate chair to lead.

- **Meaningful Lives and Citizenship Group**

Group was established on 08.11.2021 and plans to meet on a 6 weekly basis. 4 carers have agreed to be part of this group.

1 meeting has occurred and terms of reference for group has been agreed.

4 carers provided feedback on their experience of attending the meeting. All found the meeting useful and they were listened to, 3 found they were able to contribute to the actions.

- **Information sessions – Promoting regular opportunities for carers to receive information that is important to them.**

3 sessions have been offered to date on:

Carer support services

Health improvement in LD services and

Self-directed support

There have been minimal interest in the initial 2 sessions. This may possibly be due to issues with communication of the sessions or zoom fatigue. This will hopefully be addressed by service wide information being shared.

- **Community Newsletter**

This is currently in development and will provide some positive updates on what has been happening across LD services.

- **PPI training**

Bespoke PPI training has been offered to staffing groups in Suffolk day centre. Two sessions have taken place within the centre and 16 staff in total were trained. The feedback from the training was very positive with staff reported through evaluations that the training was helpful, interesting and met their learning needs for PPI in their work.

- **Day Centres**

There are good examples of co-production between staff and service users in day centres. The Everton centre co-produced a "Covid – easy read" booklet for service users to support them through the pandemic. Service users also co-produced a "Staying well at home booklet" with a video that is in post production.

Muckamore

- Carers forum has continued to meet on a 6 weekly basis. Unfortunately there has only been one carer that has chosen to attend. Involvement Lead has reached out to 25% of carers in MAH to date via phone and overall the perception of the service is positive. Carers reported that they are reading the notes of the forum meetings and appreciated the regular updates provided by the forum. There have been issues raised through advocates and involvement lead by carers that have been brought to the forum and the responses of these issues have been shared with all carers.
- Real Time patient feedback is ongoing within the hospital.
- Two carers have volunteered to review some of the content of information leaflets produced by the hospital prior to distribution to the wider site.
- Healthy Eating initiative commenced with the support of service users in designing of programme.
- Telling It Like It Is group continue to support patients in sharing their views.
- PPI training was offered however due to staffing pressures was unable to take place.

Potential areas for progression

Communication – Both with staff and carers to ensure individuals are up to date about involvement opportunities. We plan to write to all families before Christmas and update them on involvement opportunities. Staff training will continue to be offered and encouraged.

Resources – Unfortunately some of the managerial posts within the community teams are vacant making it more difficult to progress the priorities carers have. As staff are appointed we will continue to progress the involvement opportunities.