

**TRUST BOARD  
SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Trust Board – Public</b>	<b>Ref No. 5.2</b>
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Mental Health &amp; Intellectual Disability</b>	<b>04 November 2021</b>
<b>Learning Disability Services – Muckamore Abbey Hospital</b>		
<b>Purpose</b>	This paper provides an update in respect of Learning Disability Services including Muckamore Abbey Hospital	
<b>Corporate Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety and Quality</li> </ul>	
<b>Key areas for consideration</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient Numbers and Resettlement</li> <li>2. Carer and Family Involvement</li> <li>3. Strategic Developments</li> <li>4. Leadership and Governance Review Recommendations</li> <li>5. Business Cases</li> <li>6. Public Inquiry</li> </ol>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Information</li> </ul>	

**Briefing for Trust Board  
04 October 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 20 October 2021, there are 42 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**

<b>Trust of Residence</b>	<b>Number of Inpatients</b>	<b>Number of Patients on Trial Resettlement</b>
Northern HSC Trust	19	0
Belfast HSC Trust	14	3
South Eastern HSC Trust	8	0
Southern HSC Trust	1	0
Western HSC Trust	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>

Of the patients on site only 3 currently is requiring active treatment - all other patients are delayed discharges.

**1.2 Patient Safety**

The most recent **Safety Report, Report No 136**, week ending 20 October 2021. 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 2 recent admissions to Muckamore, 1 male and 1 female. Both patients live with moderate LD, had been detained and no regional solution was available. One individual had previously spent a number of days in the RVH ED and the Belfast Trust had been advised that was the only option for the second patient as the commissioned service was fragile. The acceptance of these patients was only possible due to the additional patient who was on trial leave and the provision of staff from another organisation (the commissioned service) to support the transition of the other female. The females placement in community is continues to be funded to secure timely discharge.

Discharge Planning meetings have been established to ensure that this admission does not incur unnecessary discharge delay

**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**

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 11 October 2021 can be found in **Appendix 1**.

As at 21 September 2021, there are 78 members of nursing staff who have had a decision to precautionary suspend. There are currently 70 staff remaining on precautionary suspension, 32 are registrants and 38 are non registrants and of these 14 registrants and 26 non registrants hold substantive posts in Muckamore.

There are 62 staff who have protection plans in place (supervision and training). Of these 62, 38 hold substantive posts in Muckamore, 19 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 24.

The permanent Divisional Nurse post is at advertisement stage.

#### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

As at the 22nd October 2021, there is no active Covid-19 outbreak on the Muckamore Abbey Hospital. Screening of all patients continues as per the agreed programme. 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**

In June 2021, the Real Time Patient Feedback initiative was extended to Muckamore Abbey Hospital. In conjunction with Speech and Language Therapy, the Muckamore Patient Council and TILII, specific talking mats were developed and tested with our patients. The patient feedback domains have been adapted for use in Muckamore but still align to the Trust wide parameters in order to be able to benchmark. Real time patient feedback continues to be captured on a fortnightly basis.

In addition the patient experience team are also completing a monthly Medication Safety Thermometer Reports. Cranfield 1 & 2, and the Sixmile Assessment & Admissions Unit have already completed this process.

### **Be Safe Be Happy Project**

In 2019, the Learning Disability management team commissioned work from the Association for Real Change (ARC) to carry out a baseline assessment in Muckamore Abbey Hospital utilizing a number of different approaches and techniques, including group work and 1:1 support, to explore how safe and happy patients feel. This is now almost completed. A number of reports relating to individual patients has already been shared with the multi-disciplinary team and this is helping to inform decision making and enhance care planning for our patients. A draft Final Report has now been shared with the senior management team and a meeting is scheduled to discuss the report with ARC. The senior Management Team met with ARC and it was agreed to allow for further period of reflection that a meeting would be coordinated later in the year.

### **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. There are a number of agreed priorities, the first of which is the establishment of the Learning Disability Forum. The first meeting took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, a Carer co-chair has been appointed, initial feedback has been positive.

### **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 took place on 26 October 2021 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 December 2021 or January 2022.

The Trust's parallel proposal that it would reopen 3 beds as patients are successfully resettled has not been accepted. However, a decision is required in respect of a future admission pathway for any BHSCT service user who is detained and requires admission for assessment and treatment, and who is not suitable for a mental health facility. In the context of a detention, there is a legal requirement for admission to hospital within 48 hours of the completion of the relevant paperwork.

#### **On Site Option for Resettlement**

Mr Sean Holland, Chief Social Worker, wrote to the Trust in September 2020 to request the Trust to scope an option for an on-site facility in Muckamore which would support a small number of patients who have spent their adult lives in the hospital, to be resettled there permanently. Each Trust has completed a desk top scoping exercise to identify the number of patients who would meet the criteria set out by the Department of Health. This exercise has concluded and has identified a potential 4 patients who meet the criteria for such a facility, albeit that 1 patient is also being considered for a community resettlement option. An outline specification has been drawn up and shared with the Capital Planning team and a Design Team has been secured to complete a feasibility review of the site. It is anticipated that this exercise will take up to 3 months.

A Steering Group, chaired by the Interim Director and with representation from SEHSCT, NHSCT, RQIA and HSCB has been established and has now had 4 meetings. All families have been informed of the proposal for an on-site option for resettlement. A meeting with Mr Sean Holland and DOH officials to update and discuss the proposal is currently being arranged.

### **4. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

Further to the Trust Board report in May 2021, a response is being finalised for issue to the Department of Health 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. An application is being submitted to DoH to commence public sector trawl, with housing associations.

The Trust are commencing development of a further business case in relation to a Forensic provision, however this has been delayed as there appears to be a lack of suitable sites for the housing association to identify which will meet the criteria for this development. The Trust continue

to work with the housing association to progress this case. More recently the HSCB has enquired as to the possibility of the Trust facilitating the housing provider to develop this proposal on the Kncokbracken Hospital Site, however there are planning restrictions which would prevent this. The HSCB have been advised.

## **6. PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The public inquiry into allegations of abuse of patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital commenced on 12 October 2021. Members of the public inquiry team visited Muckamore Abbey Hospital site on 14 October 2021.

**26 October 2021**

**Appendix 1**

**Nurse Staffing Levels Week of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021– Muckamore Abbey Hospital:**

Ward	Inpatients	Trial Leave	Total	Plan Nursing wte	BHSCT Staff Available wte	Agency Block booking	Other Backfill (bank/add hours/OT)	Variance after Backfill	% achieved against plan
Cranfield 1	9	1	10	36.4	10.54	24.4	2.54	1.08	102.97
Cranfield 2	7	0	7	36.21	12.83	25.8	2.75	5.17	114.27
Donegore	6	0	6	35.28	14.64	8.3	2.7	-9.64	72.68
Killead	9	1	10	41.44	19.47	23.7	3.7	5.43	113.1
Sixmile	10	3	13	31.92	8.66	16	5.78	-1.48	95.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>181.25</b>	<b>66.14</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>17.47</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>100.31</b>

**Staff who were not available to work:**

Sick Leave			Maternity Leave			Annual Leave		
Reg	Non Reg	Total	Reg	Non Reg	Total	Reg	Non Reg	Total
6.38	15.39	21.77	1	3.57	4.57	3.95	7.72	11.67