

**Update for Partners re TEWV COVID-19 Contingency Arrangements  
Week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

The Trust continue to implement their contingency plans in response to the evolving situation around COVID-19. Key issues and changes (applicable to all services) since our last briefing are:

Inpatient and Crisis/Urgent Care Services

- Foss Park, our new purpose-built mental health hospital in York, officially opened Tuesday 21 April Located on Haxby Road in York. Foss Park is a 72-bed hospital which provides two adult, single-sex wards (Ebor ward – female adult beds / Minster ward – male adult beds) and two older people's wards (Wold View for people with dementia and Moor Croft for people with mental health conditions such as psychosis, severe depression or anxiety). The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection took place virtually last Tuesday (14 April) and we received official approval last Friday (17 April).

We are working in very different and difficult times so to get to this position, particularly with all of the current challenges, is an incredible achievement. The teams involved in this – both in the Trust and external partners - have been working extremely hard to make sure that the project ran to schedule, especially in these last few weeks, and we are actually opened a week ahead of plan so a huge thank you to everyone involved. This is a real milestone for the local communities in the Vale of York and North Yorkshire and in TEWV,

All wards provide ground floor, single bed rooms with en-suite bathrooms, lots of natural light and access to outdoor garden areas with multiple therapy spaces including the use of internal planted courtyards. As well as large ward spaces, Foss Park also has a Section 136 assessment suite, an electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) suite and dedicated space for research and development. York's adult and older people's crisis teams and the care home and dementia team will also relocate to Foss Park.

In addition to the work of our staff and partners, service user and carer involvement has been embedded throughout the development of Foss Park. More than 50 design workshops involving service users and carers, along with clinical staff, have been facilitated to help inform the design of the build and help us to improve understanding of and raise awareness of their needs. Service users and carers were also part of the working group which proposed the hospital site and ward names.

Services will move into Foss Park from the following Trust sites:

- Peppermill Court, York
- Cherry Tree House, York
- Meadowfields, York
- Cedar and Rowan wards, Briary Wing at Harrogate District Hospital
- Some services currently at Huntington House, York

There is a phased approach to services moving into Foss Park over the next few weeks, the first been patients from Peppermill Court (York) who moved on Tuesday 21 April and patients from Cedar ward (Harrogate) who moved on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

- We continue to manage well with bed capacity, but are keeping this under daily review as the situation in the wider community and country changes.
- Restrictions to visiting remain, with significant exceptions being considered on a case by case basis (as outlined in last week's briefing). Tablets on wards continue to be popular as a way of facilitating contact during these difficult times
- Leave of absence (for detained patients) and time off the ward (for informal patients) continue to be subject to revised arrangements to minimise risk of infection to patients and staff. We will keep this under close review and revise arrangements as soon as we are able to safely do so
- We continue to follow national PPE guidance as it is published and are working hard to ensure staff in all areas have access to appropriate PPE to keep themselves, patients and families safe.
- Updated information relating to crisis services (all providing 24/7 support) is now available at - <https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/services/crisisadvice/> .
- All services across North Yorkshire & York including Adult Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Children and Young Peoples Services and Mental Health Services for Older People are now supporting a mental health all age 24/7 crisis & support line. Services can continue to be contacted using the local crisis numbers on the website and patients will be able to access support from a team of staff that are operating as a virtual team across North Yorkshire and York. Once we have completed the final transfers of York & Harrogate transformations we will be formally launching the public facing number and key contact for partners. Further information will be issued in the weekly briefing and as well as on the Trust website and patient facing information.
- Should emergency changes to the Mental Health Act come into force, we will ensure that all section 12 approved clinicians are fully aware of the impact this will have and any changes to practice this may make. We are not aware of any

specific pressures or risks relating to AMHP capacity across our Trust patch at present.

### Community Services

- Phone and video contacts for community appointments continue to work well.
- All community teams continue to prioritise contact with patients assessed as highest risk. We are linking closely with public health colleagues and the shielding hubs being led by Local Authorities to make sure we are protecting those who may be the most vulnerable during the pandemic.
- We are trying to maintain a level of contact with all patients, supplemented by more frequent contact by volunteers or other staff where appropriate, but if you have any significant concerns about particular patient's wellbeing or there is any deterioration in their presentation please let your local community team or crisis team know so they can respond appropriately.
- We appreciate that assessments will continue to be sent into the Trust in line with clinical need, but it would be helpful if referring staff are able to explain to patients that unless there is an urgent need, it is likely to be some time before a full assessment can take place.
- All localities are working hard to make sure that appropriate support is also being given to carers through this difficult period. If there are any families or carers that you feel would benefit from more direct contact or additional support please do not hesitate to contact your local team.
- If it would be helpful to have access to the list of online and other resources that we have shared with local Healthwatch teams please let us know.

### Mobile staff testing in North Yorkshire and York

North Yorkshire and York are piloting a mobile testing service for staff who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. This is to ensure that all staff who are displaying symptoms and can't get to another testing location, such as a drive through test centre, can be tested within three days in accordance with national guidance.

The mobile testing is being run by corporate staff in collaboration with colleagues from Harrogate CCG, highlighting the positive collaboration and the partnership working during this difficult time.

It's hoped that this will help support staff to return to work as soon as possible where appropriate. Initial feedback has been positive and other localities within the Trust are considering the scheme over the coming weeks.

## Care Homes

We fully recognise that the Care Home sector are beginning to come under pressure and that we have an important role in the system to support care home patients and also staff that work in the sector. Specific support to care homes continues within each locality to ensure residents can continue to access mental health support. We are also developing ways in each locality that we might be able to support care home staff to remain resilient at this challenging time.

## Prescribing and Access to Medication

All teams have systems in place to make sure patients continue to have access to prescriptions and medication, as outlined in our last briefing. We have now introduced an electronic system to allow prescribers who may be self isolating and working from home to generate prescriptions as normal. We are keeping a close eye on medication supplies to ensure that we are aware at the earliest opportunity if supply is becoming difficult so we can take necessary actions.

Despite suggestions in some media to the contrary, it is not necessary for patients taking clozapine to be shielded, unless they have existing severe respiratory disease, or are at high risk of immunosuppression due to treatment with immunosuppressant drugs, or have been advised to shield for another specific reason unrelated to clozapine therapy

Additional guidance has also been issued to all Trust staff regarding additional precautions to take when administering depot injections. If you are currently responsible for the administration of a depot/long-acting antipsychotic injection to a patient, please contact their TEWV community team for advice if this is not going to be possible on the scheduled date.

## Additional Support for Services

As we briefed last week, we continue to mobilise a large number of staff to provide additional support to wards and teams. This includes using our Trust Volunteers to maintain social contact with any patient in the community who teams think would benefit from this. Within this we also have the option to consider specific needs on a case by case basis (eg dog walking). We hope this additional support will be well received by users and families at this difficult time.

## Access to Advice and Support for Partners

Local teams will continue to have processes in place to provide support and advice to all partners in relation to clinical issues. .

To help staff in all areas, patients, families and the general public, our Recovery College online have developed a range of new courses to support people during the pandemic, including courses specifically aimed at young people. The courses are free to access via the link below, or via Recovery College Online on Facebook:

[www.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk](http://www.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk)

A national NHS mental health hotline has been launched as part of a package of measures to support NHS staff through the pandemic to provide emotional support and onward signposting to specialise financial advice, bereavement care and coaching. Staff can call **0300 131 7000** between 7am and 11pm, 7 days a week, or text FRONTLINE to 85258, 24 hours a day.

### Vale of York System Group

A Vale of York system group has been set up, which is a weekly meeting of Commissioner and Provider leads across the Vale of York with representation from the CCG, Local Authority, TEWV, North Yorkshire Police, Primary Care Network leads and Clinical Directors and the CVS. The group is focused on supporting services during the Covid pandemic and preparing for a potential rise in referrals to MH services in the coming weeks and months due to the impact of isolation, shielding and delayed grief. The group is exploring ways to connect secondary and primary care mental health services more closely to build resilience and build capacity to address this expected need. Examples being explored include; embedding MH services within GP practices, the use and coordination of a MH Crisis and Advice telephone line and exploring the potential use of volunteers to support services, patients and their carers. A virtual workshop is planned to progress this over the next few weeks.