

# **DUNFERMLINE & WEST FIFE CHP – FIFE LEARNING DISABILITIES SERVICE**

**9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009**

## **UPDATE – REGIONAL UNIT LEARNING DISABILITIES UNIT**

### **1 Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to update D&WFCHP Committee on the continuing work in relation to the Regional Learning Disabilities Unit.

### **2 Background**

In South East Scotland (Lothian, Fife, Forth Valley and Borders) there are a small number of detained patients with learning disabilities who have committed serious offences (males 18 to 65 years). The needs of these patients are currently not being appropriately met by existing in-patient services.

The component Health Boards in the South East Scotland Network do not have sufficiently robust in-patient facilities to safely manage individuals presenting with very high levels of risk; Borders have no forensic facility, Forth Valley and Lothian have lockable standard ward accommodation with Fife having a low secure unit. There was clinical consensus in the South East that the individuals identified could not be safely managed in any of the existing units. The development of a regional facility, able to cope with a range of needs defined as between “locked forensic unit/ward” and “medium secure”, and taking into account the need to reduce the number of high secure beds, is the most clinically appropriate, and cost effective solution. The unit would not admit patients who could be safely managed within existing in-patient resources.

The implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 has had a significant impact on the range of services expected to be provided. For the first time, patients are able to appeal against the level of security under which they are detained. The work done by the National Forensic MCN indicated that the requirement for high security for people with a learning disability is limited to a maximum of twelve beds for Scotland with eight medium secure beds planned for the East Coast of Scotland. It is therefore likely that there will be a significant number of appeals against levels of security. The new Regional Learning Disabilities Unit will provide the level of security required to safely treat these individuals since the eight medium secure beds planned for the East Coast of Scotland form another part of the spectrum of care.

### **3 Progress to date**

3.1 Planning approval received without any onerous conditions (October 2008)

- 3.2 Following tendering process, Marshall Construction appointed and on site November 2008.
- 3.3 Workshops held which focused on:
- Infection Control
  - Risk Management (Risk Register)
  - AEDET
- 3.4 Construction work remains 2-3 weeks behind construction programme (noted in February because of adverse weather conditions) but will not effect the contractual completion date of 16/10/09 and projected occupation date of 06/11/2009. The Contractors have progressed well on site and the building is largely wind and watertight.
- Project remains within budget.
- 3.5 A 'Change Control Register' is maintained. Any changes are recorded and approved by the Project Board. To date changes include:
- Form recesses within block-work walls to accommodate fire extinguishers
  - Alterations to the pinpoint alarm proposal following meeting with Pinpoint and staff user group.
  - Additional Works in dealing with existing unforeseen Surface Water drainage systems
  - Provide temporary speed bumps on existing roadway
  - Glazed bricks in lieu of Eternit cladding between windows
  - Building Warrant compliance work – additional works to comply
  - Connection of Fire Alarm to Site Panel
  - Saving in road crossing for surface water drainage connection
- 3.6 Design/Room Data Sheets/Room Layouts completed
- 3.7 Internal finishes, colours, etc approved.
- 3.8 Ironmongery, lighting and sanitary ware agreed.
- 3.9 Arrangements for '*Completion and Handover Programme*' is in early discussion stage.
- 3.10 Furniture and Equipment – initially outlined to provide costing information.  
- Meetings now ongoing in relation to furniture procurement.
- 3.11 Workforce Planning Group  
- Paper approved by Project Board December 2008).
- 3.12 Recruitment Group  
- Senior Charge Nurse interviews held 28/04/09 – Janet Williams appointed to post.  
- 2 Band 6 Senior Staff Nurses in post from 01/07/09  
- Advertising campaign ongoing.

- Anticipated costs in lead up to the Unit opening have been estimated and shared with partner areas.
  - Recruitment and retention remain an identified risk and are recorded on the NHS Fife Risk Register.
  - A Staff Questionnaire was undertaken in relation to current ward staff to ascertain preferences of work area.
- 3.13 PFPI (in relation to both the RLD Unit and Assessment & Treatment Unit)
- 2006 - Service User and Relative Carer Involvement and Open Event
  - 2008 - 'Patient Focus Group Report'
  - Ongoing - PFPI Lead (D. Hathaway) is working 2 days per week for the Fife LD Service.
  - A regular evening weekly meeting (facilitated by D. Hathaway) is held which is attended by patients and staff.
  - The above group was instrumental in organising the process of naming both Units; name confirmed as "*Daleview for the Regional LD Unit*".
- 3.14 Facilitated Workshops
- A series of workshops continue looking specifically at philosophy, guiding principles, and action planning of this.
- 3.15 Integrated Care Pathway
- Group, chaired by M. Pirie, Lead Nurse(In Patients). The four board areas have met regularly and work is almost complete.
  - Tom Hammond, LD MCN Manager, discussing with senior managers in all board areas and all Social Work departments.
  - Work has progressed well and training has been delivered.
- 3.16 Communication Strategy
- Communication Strategy in place
  - D&WF CHP Lynebank Newsletter – quarterly newsletter continues
  - Local Staff Briefings – continue
  - Planning for official opening January 2010 has begun
  - Planning for: Open Days for local population (to view plans of building, hear about policies and procedures, etc)
  - Planning for: Days for invited professionals from all Board areas to view Unit.
- 3.17 Garden Design
- Scottish Agricultural College Students are currently involved in developing the garden design as part of their Horticultural Course.

#### **4 Resource Implications**

Agreement has been reached with the Directors of Finance that the capital funding for the project which is being shared by the four NHS Boards will be provided to NHS Fife through a Capital Resource Limit transfer facilitated by the Scottish Government Health Department.

Estimated revenue costs for 2009/10 based on the initial patient numbers have been shared with the Directors of Finance. Two costings were provided based on either a November 2009 or a January 2010 opening.

## **5 Recommendations**

D&WFCHP Committee is asked to note above progress and information.

Patricia Colville  
Service Manager  
Fife Learning Disabilities Service  
Dunfermline & West Fife Community Health Partnership  
26/06/09