

Stakeholder Brief

Special Edition

August 2011

Review of rehabilitation and stroke services

The review of rehabilitation and stroke services across Worcestershire concluded that patient care and outcomes would be improved by changing the way that services were delivered - providing a range of services closer to home that meets patient needs in a more suitable setting.

The plan has been to develop a range of high quality services providing health and social care capable of meeting the nursing and rehabilitation needs of patients from Worcester, Droitwich and Ombersley (as they do not have community hospitals or sufficient resources to provide care closer to home).

The new community resources, which now replace the rehabilitation services previously provided at the Aconbury Unit at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, are described in more detail in this Brief.

First patients arrive at Timberdine Nursing and Rehabilitation Unit

Timberdine Nursing and Rehabilitation Unit is a dedicated unit which provides nursing care, residential care and rehabilitation for patients who continue to need 24 hour care and rehabilitation following admission to the acute hospital.

The successful transition of nursing staff and the two remaining patients on Maple and Juniper wards at Aconbury took place on 25 July – a week ahead of schedule. Twelve beds are already open at Timberdine, with plans to open additional beds in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that 28 beds will be available by the end of August.

Medical cover is being provided by Elgar Healthcare, via the Worcester Walk-in and Health Centre, and consists of a daily ward round and the opportunity to access additional medical support throughout the day if necessary. Out of hours medical cover is provided by Harmoni, the existing Out Of Hours Primary Care provider.

Further support is also available from consultant geriatricians at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, who make regular visits to the unit to assist in the management of rehabilitation and stroke patients with complex needs.



Hospital at Home Service evaluates well

The Hospital at Home Service offers patients who previously would have been admitted to hospital the opportunity to receive nursing care, treatment and rehabilitation at home, with the support of a carer through the day and night.

It has been running successfully as a pilot service for the last six months, and shows promise as a valuable service for the future.

An evaluation has shown that 100% of patients were satisfied with their experience of using the service.

“The Hospital at Home scheme is absolutely fantastic and words cannot express how it has benefited mum and myself over the last 72 hours.”

Staff delivering the service have also been impressed with the outcomes, with 8 out of 9 staff confirming that the service promoted

independence for the elderly and was a safe alternative to hospital-based care.

During the pilot period, evidence suggests that 41 admissions to hospital were avoided as a result of the Hospital at Home Service. There is also evidence of two cases where long-term residential placements have been avoided as result of the intervention of the service.

The service will now continue to be commissioned substantively through a combination of nursing and therapy delivered by the Worcester and Droitwich Intermediate Care Team with 24 hour carer support.



Step down beds now available across the county

Ten step down beds are now available for patients who have completed rehabilitation, and who are awaiting a decision about their long-term care arrangements.

Criteria to access these beds has now been widened to ensure they are accessible across Worcestershire and to support the availability of acute and community hospital beds.

Ten patients have used these beds since they were made available in June.



Increased capacity for community services across Worcestershire

Additional funding secures extra capacity in the Community Stroke Team

The Community Stroke Team will be enhanced to provide support to stroke patients in Timberdine Nursing and Rehabilitation Unit and will provide additional capacity to support patients at home across the county.

Countywide Rapid Response and Integrated Intermediate Care Teams are on their way

The Rapid Response and Intermediate Care Social Work Team has been developed to provide a new crisis intervention service across Worcestershire, as well as facilitate the patient journey through the new intermediate care services.

The team is based at Bridgewater House in Worcester but will work across each of the localities across Worcestershire and will be fully integrated with the intermediate care teams.

Rather than retaining long-term case management, the team will act as a signposting service and work with other community teams to avoid inappropriate admissions to hospitals. They will provide interim and unplanned / unscheduled care to stabilise any crisis situations that may arise.

Registered Mental Health Nurses (RMNs) will also be integrated within locality Intermediate Care

Teams and will be able to assess patients with mental health problems both in their own homes to prevent admission to hospital, and within hospitals to help support early discharge.

The service allows an RMN to in-reach into both acute and community hospitals on a daily basis, including visits to A&E, medical assessment units and wards, and involves assessments, planned treatment and advice.

There are seven posts to be recruited to. One post has already been filled via an internal application, and the remaining posts will be advertised next week.

The team, which will be contactable through the normal Access Centre and Single Point of Access (SPA) on 01905 768053, is expected to be fully up and running by the end of September 2011.

Worcester and Droitwich Intermediate Care Team

The Worcester and Droitwich Intermediate Care Team has now relocated to Timberdine Nursing and Rehabilitation Unit which will provide them with greater opportunity to support patients to transfer home. The team will soon be enhanced by the Hospital at Home Service nursing and therapy staff, a rapid response social worker and a Registered Mental Health Nurse.

For more information on any of the information within this brief please contact communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk