

Report title: Changes to Acute Mental Health Beds in South Essex	
Report to: People Scrutiny Committee	
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Trust is planning to move an adult inpatient ward back to Rochford during Week commencing 28th September 2020. Rochford Hospital originally accommodated two adult acute inpatient wards until Willow Ward at Rochford was temporarily moved to Basildon a few years ago. We are now in a position to move patients back to Rochford and re-open Willow, so that we are returning to the original position, which will stop patients from South East Essex having to leave this locality. There are many other benefits that will be realised as a result of this move.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note this report for information only.

3. Background

- 3.1 The CQC recommended that Essex Partnership University NHS Trust (EPUT) should remove dormitory accommodation and has since confirmed that it would undertake this project with a target date for completion in 2021 across all our inpatient estate.
- 3.2 The only facility within the Trust that does not currently meet the single bedroom accommodation standard is based at Basildon Mental Health Unit in Kelvedon, Grangewaters and Thorpe Wards. The other two existing wards at Basildon (Hadleigh and Assessment Unit) are already provided with single bedroom accommodation.
- 3.3 All inpatient accommodation at Rochford is provided in single bedrooms; therefore, the move back to Rochford is ideal. The project has also allowed us the opportunity to improve the accommodation at Basildon, to be able to change from outdated dormitory provision to single bedrooms with en-suite.
- 3.4 On the Basildon site, a decision was made to refurbish Cherrydown and Kelvedon Wards as they are on the ground floor and have direct external access, which would help to improve the patient experience by allowing direct access to a garden from the ward.
- 3.5 Cherrydown has accommodated our inpatient gym and ADL kitchen onsite at Basildon for a while now. It has also housed the onsite pharmacy and office space for several teams; therefore, Langdon has been refurbished to allow these functions to be accommodated in a different space and freeing up the area for refurbishment for this project. The new space they will occupy will be vastly improved and modernised.

- 3.6 It has been our ambition to reduce the size of some of our largest wards, as it is recognised that smaller wards produce calmer environments and therefore better outcomes for patients and allowing staff to provide better care. We are able to achieve this with our plans.
- 3.7 The architect provided a proposal which allows for 16 bedrooms with en-suite facilities within the existing building at Basildon on each of these two new wards (Cherrydown & Kelvedon). Two of the rooms on each of the two new wards will be adapted to be able to accommodate bariatric patients or those with physical health disabilities, which is also an improvement to our current provision.
- 3.8 All of our wards in South Essex have been providing a service for a mix of both male and female patients. This project has allowed us to revisit this provision, and a decision has been made in the interests of sexual safety for our patients to change to single sex wards. With two wards at Rochford (Willow and Cedar) and two wards at Basildon MHU (Cherrydown and Kelvedon) we are able to accommodate one male and one female ward at each site.

4. **Bed Numbers**

- 4.1 The architect for the project was limited with options within the existing fabric of the building at Basildon MHU and was able to maximise the available space to create 16 en-suite bedrooms on each of the two refurbished wards on the site. This has meant there is a reduction of six inpatient beds in total for South Essex. The table below illustrates the changes.

Ward Names	Original Bed Nos	Ward Names	Single Bedroom Nos
Grangewaters	24	Kelvedon	16
Thorpe	20	Cherrydown	16
Kelvedon	18	Willow	24
Cedar	24	Cedar	24
TOTAL	86	TOTAL	80

- 4.2 Whilst it would have been preferred to provide an equal number of inpatient beds, it has not been possible to do so. It is of interest to note that during the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have been operating with reduced capacity on all our inpatient wards, and particularly so in Basildon MHU on the dormitory wards, due to the complication of social distancing and inability to isolate patients in a dormitory environment. Our current capacity has therefore been significantly reduced to 78, and we have been managing to operate and accommodate all our patients with this reduced number of beds.

5. **Summary of benefits**

- Return of beds being provided in the South East Essex area for local patients
- Elimination of outdated dormitory accommodation for inpatients
- Improved privacy and dignity for patients
- More modern, refurbished accommodation being provided in all affected wards
- Far better access to outside for patients on Basildon site
- Better access and provision for those patients with a physical disability need/bariatric need

- Smaller, less crowded wards which will provide safer, more therapeutic environments
- Single sex accommodation
- En-suite accommodation in four acute adult wards
- Replacement of gym and ADL kitchen at Basildon site into newly refurbished area.