



Whalton unit Northumberland OSC update – September 2019

Background

The Whalton unit provides consultant-led (Care of the Elderly) rehabilitation for residents in South East Northumberland in a 30-bedded unit, predominantly for frail older patients, specialist stroke rehabilitation and post-operative rehabilitation for patients after orthopaedic surgery

In November 2018, the Trust informed NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) of the decision to relocate the Whalton Unit from Morpeth to Wansbeck General Hospital, on a temporary basis. This decision was approved by the Trust to ensure that the issues experienced with nurse staffing did not lead to quality and safety concerns that were likely to be compounded by expected increases in activity across the winter period. This came into effect on 19 December 2018.

This decision was reviewed in April 2019 by the Trust and there was an agreement to extend the temporary location pending an updated report to enable a longer timeline for the impact analysis, with a specific focus on the experience of patients.

Prior to making any long term recommendation Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, along with Northumbria Healthcare have agreed to a programme of public engagement and independent research to understand in more detail the views of the local population.

Engagement

The aim of this engagement is to garner views regarding the temporary move of the Whalton Unit to Wansbeck General Hospital and the subsequent impact this has had.

A proposed timetable for the engagement can be found further within this document.

A number of meetings have taken place with the campaign group and the proposed engagement activity shared with them. This group have made further recommendations regarding additional engagement and this has been included within the proposed engagement activity.

The findings from both the independent research and engagement activity will be collated and shared with the Northumberland Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November. It is then when we anticipate to make a recommendation relating to the longer term future of the Whalton Unit.

Timeline for activity

w/c 2 September On-street engagement using independent market research		
Public drop in sessions		
Date	Time	Venue
11 September	10am – 2pm	Corn exchange, Morpeth town hall
11 September	4pm – 7pm	Corn exchange, Morpeth town hall
12 September	10am – 12noon	Morpeth NHS centre
13 September	11am – 1pm	Morpeth leisure centre
5 November		
Further Northumberland OSC update for consideration		

Stakeholders and target audiences

- Staff
- GPs and patient participation groups (PPGs) - Gas House Lane (Dr O'Neill and partners), Greystoke and Wellway surgeries
- Patients, the public and carers - Public drop-in sessions (four) - Morpeth Town Hall (Corn Exchange room) / Morpeth NHS session / Leisure Centre and independent market research – online / on street / focus groups
- Campaign group
- CCG My NHS members
- Members and governors of the Trust
- Care home and hospice providers
- Local and county councillors, parish councils, OSC - health and wellbeing committee, Health and wellbeing board
- PALS
- Local MP
- NHS England / Improvement
- North East Ambulance Service
- Healthwatch Northumberland
- Voluntary and community sector groups – Age UK, Carers Northumberland, Ageing well network
- Churches – St James, St Mary, St Aidan's (CofE), St George's (United Reform), Methodist, St Robert's (Catholic)
- Northumberland County Blind Association (Reiver House, Staithes Lane, Morpeth)
- Community centres – Storey Park, St Aidan's Church Hall, Mitford Village Hall, Hepscott Village Hall, Pegswood Community Hub. (NB. Morpeth includes surrounding parishes of Pegswood, Mitford, Bothal, Hepscott and Hebron)

Please note we are currently reviewing how we can run some engagement activity within the church groups represented.