

## AGENDA ITEM 5

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

Councillor Cynthia Endacott  
Chair, Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Dear Cynthia

### **Re: Proposed Ward 14 Closure at Heatherwood Hospital to consolidate into Charles Ward at St Mark's Hospital in Maidenhead**

Further to the recent consultation on the relocation of inpatient mental health beds in the East of the county I write to update you on the improvements to older people's mental health services and the proposed consolidation of inpatient services.

The future for older people's mental health services lies in our commitment to meeting needs wherever possible, within the person's home by providing Home Treatment teams, available day and night, and local community Mental Health Teams to provide additional treatment and support. This model has operated in the west of the county for several years and is very effective. It has been a long held desire of the Trust to ensure that the people of east of Berkshire benefit from the same approach. The National Dementia Strategy has set the gold standard for service provision to Older Adults for the next decade. BHFT is committed to full compliance with these aspirations within the NHS and is actively investing in services for older people as part of its entire service transformation programme – Next Generation Care. The additional investment will reduce the occupancy levels in our current older person's wards even further and that brings us to the need to consolidate into one ward. The data provides information on the numbers of people in your area that are affected.

The Older Adults wards in the East have historically remained under-occupied for a number of years. This has resulted in an inefficient use of the available resources for older adult's inpatient provision.

In the east of the county there are currently 43 beds for older people of which have had a 39% - 58% occupancy at any one time for the past 9 months. Those beds are:

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Beds</b>
Ward 14, Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot	Acute older people's functional and organic services.	20 beds. Primarily serving Bracknell , Ascot and Windsor
Charles ward, St Mark's Hospital, Maidenhead	Acute older people's functional and organic services.	23 beds. Primarily serving Maidenhead, Slough

Given the very low occupancy of the beds over a prolonged period the Trust has taken the view that it would be prudent to consolidate those resources to operate from one ward (Charles Ward in St Mark's Hospital in Maidenhead) and release resources to invest in the development of alternatives to hospital admission.

Numbers admitted over the period are:

**Berkshire older adults wards June – November 2010**

		<i>Charles</i>	<i>Ward 14</i>
June	min	17	8
	max	17	8
July	min	14	4
	max	14	4
Aug	min	15	4
	max	15	4
Sep	min	14	4
	max	15	5
Oct	min	13	4
	max	13	4
Nov	min	14	5
	max	14	6

The table below shows the number of people over 12 months that were admitted by GP area.

<b>Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</b>	<b>Admissions to a mental health bed</b>	<b>01 February 2010 - 31 January 2011</b>	
<b>Age band on Admission 65 years and over</b>	<b>GP Area</b>	<b>Total Number of People</b>	<b>Number of people who may have had more than one admission</b>
	Bracknell	18	2
	Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead	41	8

The Consultants are in favour of the consolidation of these two wards to enable a more effective clinical service to be delivered. Under Next Generation Care investment has been provided to support the establishment of 3 specialist Home Treatment Teams (HTTs) for older people in the East. Therefore we are confident that there is sufficient capacity within the new model to meet current demand. The benefits of this planned introduction of HTTs for Older People will provide an alternative to psychiatric hospital admission making it possible for an increased number of older people to be treated at home during episodes of acute mental health need and crisis. To support the new model there is additional 0.75 Consultant establishment for East Berkshire. This budget will be used to create an inpatient Consultant post which in turn will release capacity for existing Consultants in Older People's Mental Health to support the enhanced community services.

The analysis above indicates that it is very rare that the capacity in the East for older peoples acute inpatient care exceeds the available 23 beds which remain on Charles Ward. We are confident that through the additional investment in HTT that there will be a further reduction in the people needing admission and therefore Charles Ward will have sufficient capacity.

The plan is to develop the HTT in advance of the consolidation to ensure the improved services are in place and therefore the consolidation is expected to start with effect from 1 July 2011.

We regularly attend OSC meetings but would be happy to discuss this at any time you wish. Please do contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philippa Slinger', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**Philippa Slinger**  
**Chief Executive**