



**Nottingham City and
Nottinghamshire County**

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Dear Councillors

Development of services at Ling's Bar Hospital

Following our meeting with you in April 2012, I'm pleased to update you on the development of services at Ling's Bar Hospital since that time.

By way of background; following an independent utilisation review of community hospitals in Nottinghamshire County, the results demonstrated that nearly half of the patients treated at Ling's Bar Hospital (LBH) did not need to be there or would be better cared for in the community. A working group of clinicians have been looking at ways to develop sustainable and appropriate care for patients in the community whilst re-utilising LBH as a valuable health facility.

Update:

- In May 2012 Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) opened the Haemodialysis Unit at LBH. This has improved access to haemodialysis services for patients in the South of Nottinghamshire.
- The accelerated discharge scheme at LBH, which is ensuring patients are returned to more appropriate care at the right time, is now fully embedded in working practices across the whole hospital.
- Since October 2011, 128 patients have been through an early supported discharge scheme (Enhanced Community Support Service) in Rushcliffe where appropriate and individualised packages of care have enabled earlier discharge of patients from LBH into their home with the majority of patients being in the new service for less than 14 days.

The scheme has also now been extended to patients in Nottingham West and Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). The evaluation of the pilot has been completed by the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) in Nottinghamshire. This report together with provider and patient feedback will be used to inform future commissioning decisions regarding this work from April 2013.

Patient feedback from the new service remains overwhelmingly positive, with all patients extremely happy with the care they have received. Feedback includes:

- "I preferred being at home and this service was better for me"
 - "The care (I received) helped me survive"
 - "I have got nothing but positives to say (about the service)"
- Additional funding has been requested to extend the capacity of the Enhanced Community Support Service in Rushcliffe from 5 places to 10 places as it has been identified that there is the demand to fill the places.
 - The Nottingham City Enhanced Community Support pilot ended in April 2012. The evaluation undertaken by the University of Nottingham indicated that although this was a suitable pathway for patient care, a number of processes between the acute hospital and community services needed to be improved. The learning from this work has gone on to inform the development of intermediate care services in the City. The City CCG is also continuing to provide in-reach to LBH building on the success of the County Pilot.
 - Increased efficiency with the level of admission activity for the hospital's three wards remains comparable to the previous number of admissions when the hospital had four wards in operation. This year it is forecast to increase the number of admissions.
 - Work has started to investigate whether an alternative, more appropriate care setting can be provided for medically stable non-weight bearing patients who currently stay at Lings Bar Hospital.

The next steps

- To agree the future of the Enhanced Community Support Services and commission the service from April 2013
- To continue to work with the both Nottingham University Hospital and Lings Bar Hospital to ensure that LBH is used in the most appropriate and effective way
- To complete a further service review using a recognised care tool to ensure patients are seen in the most appropriate setting and that the issues highlighted by the utilisation review have been addressed by the work that has been done.
- To develop an overarching strategy as to the future use of Lings Bar Hospital and the appropriate use of the facility for patients in the South of the County.

We will happily provide further developments in our report to you in March 2013.

We look forward to meeting again in March to update you further on progress. In the meantime, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,
Yours sincerely



Samantha Walters
Chief Officer Designate, Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group
On behalf of NHS Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County