

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG

Briefing for Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee

January 2022

The purpose of this document is to inform the Health Scrutiny Committee of a short term service change at Newark Hospital.

Context

Sconce Ward at Newark Hospital is commissioned as a sub-acute rehabilitation ward.

A temporary change to the cohort of patients admitted to Sconce Ward has been made as a result of fragility of the overnight medical cover. The change is for a period of two months, while recruitment efforts continue to the middle grade posts and wider stakeholder engagement takes place.

During 2020, there was a retire and return agreement for one individual who no longer takes part in the night rota, and their overnight shifts were backfilled with bank and agency. A further resignation, and high turnover in the bank and agency group have resulted in a very fragile position with overnight cover being provided by four individuals; three of whom hold bank and agency contracts and are therefore not formally required to provide notice of absence or leaving their post. The Trust is actively working to recruit and manage the workload.

To assist with the issue in the short term, SFHT have proposed a temporary change to the case mix of patients who will be cared for at Sconce Ward. The ward will temporarily be used for those patients who are deemed Medically Safe for Transfer (MSFT), ie those patients ready to be discharged from hospital back to their usual place of residence. This change is expected to reduce the workload for the medical team overnight and presents less of a clinical risk in the event there is unexpectedly no doctor overnight.

The CCG has supported the short-term change and will work with the Trust to ensure that the ward is reverted back to original use as soon as is appropriate.