

York Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23rd October 2013

Report From: Judith Knapton, Head of Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults, Partnerships Commissioning Unit
(on behalf of Vale of York CCG)

Report Subject: Section 136 Health Based Place of Safety

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the York Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on developments regarding s136 Health Based Place of Safety (HBPOS).

1.2 The intention is to commission a HBPOS from Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust (LYPFT) as part of the overall crisis service provision. The facility will be located on the main site in Bootham Park Hospital in York, adjacent to acute care facilities. However, the site requires capital works to achieve the specification required for the S136 service. NHS Property Services (NHSPS) have been working with Commissioners and LYPFT to progress this work since 30th July 2013.

2. Background and local context

2.1 If a Police Officer finds, in a place to which the public have access, a person who appears to be suffering from a mental disorder, and to be in immediate need of care or control, the Police Officer can, if he/she thinks it necessary to do so in the interests of that person, or for the protection of other persons, remove that person to a place of safety where the person may be detained for up to 72 hours. (MHA 1983 Section 136). The purpose of Section 136 is to allow a joint assessment by a doctor and by an AMHP (Approved Mental Health Professional) and to make any other arrangements that may be needed for the person's treatment and care.

2.2 There is no HBPOS in North Yorkshire and York. Those detained under section 136 are usually cared for in the police custody suite. For those detained in and around the York area they are taken to Fulford Police Station, York. If someone has an overriding physical health problem they will be taken to the Accident and Emergency Department at York Hospital.

2.3 The lack of a HBPOS has been a concern in North Yorkshire and York for a considerable length of time. A high profile death in custody in the force area highlighted the risks associated with the current situation. One of the first actions of the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner was to raise the concerns that North Yorkshire was the only force in the country not to have a HBPOS

2.4 The provision of a s136 HBPOS was agreed to be a priority by NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, North Yorkshire Police, City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council and local health service providers, York District Foundation Trust and LYPFT

2.5 In July 2013 the VOY CCG Governing Body agreed to commission a HBPOS as part of an overall crisis service from Leeds York Partnership Foundation Trust.

3. Actions Taken

3.1 Service specification is being finalised

3.2 LYPFT have started the recruitment process

3.3 Assessment of building requirements has been completed. Louise Ramsay, Local Area Team Manager (North Yorkshire & Humber NHS Property Services Limited) has been working with principal contractor Mansell (Balfour Beatty construction) and their supply chain to scope and cost the capital work required for this service development.

- 3.4 The budget cost for the refurbishment work has been confirmed at £90K and the plans have been worked up and issued to LYPFT to sign off.
- 3.5 NHS Property Services Limited has secured approval, with the support of NHS England, to Department of Health capital being available to cover the budget cost identified.
- 3.6 In working up the scheme, it has become apparent that in order to achieve Building Regulations compliance, mechanical ventilation will need to be installed to the bedrooms. This will in turn require external condensers to be affixed to the external walls of this Grade I listed building. Listed building consent is required from English Heritage.
- 3.7 The building plans will have been finalised and issued to LYPFT for sign off in the early part of w/c 14 October 2013, along with a Derogation Schedule
- 3.8 Building plans were submitted on 10 October 2013 for listed building consent, planning portal reference number PP02941577.
- 3.9 The s136 Working Group has been established including the Partnerships Commissioning Unit (on behalf of VOY, SR, HRW and HaRD CCGs), North Yorkshire Police, LYPFT, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Public Health, York and Scarborough Foundation Trust and Medacs. The purpose of the group is to establish an 'Agreement of Operation' to ensure the effective implementation of the services for those within North Yorkshire and York and a mechanism for on-going monitoring of effectiveness.
- 3.10 Commissioners and providers are keen that this service is put in place as quickly as possible. Due to the necessary work needed to incorporate all the service providers' requirements, the process to finalise the capital work has taken longer than initially anticipated.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Finalise the specification
- 4.2 NHS Property services will await Listed Buildings Consent. This process will take 4 – 8 weeks, then commence works on site.
- 4.3 LYPFT to sign off the Building Plans and Derogation Schedule
- 4.4 The expected date to start the service will be the second week in January 2014.
- 4.5 LYPFT have offered support to training for police officers on s136 implementation. Briefing to York police officers to start in October
- 4.6 Completion and sign off of the Agreement of Operation between partners and agreement and circulation of dataset and recording systems is to be completed by end of November.

5. Recommendation

For the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to note the content of this paper.