

Public consultation on mental health services in East Sussex

Summary document

CONSULTATION PERIOD:
8 MARCH – 1 JUNE 2010



This consultation document has been produced by NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald, NHS Hastings and Rother and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

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Introduction

Ten years ago the first ever NHS National Service Framework for mental health was published. It set standards for the way people with mental illnesses should be diagnosed and treated and it led to significant investment in mental health services nationally and within East Sussex.

Today our expectations are more ambitious and go beyond simply treating mental ill-health. Our aim is to provide mental health services which offer real choice to the people who use them, support them in their recovery and enable them to maintain mental well being.

The NHS in East Sussex is carrying out a public consultation to get people's views about proposals to change mental health services in East Sussex and to get the right balance between hospital-based inpatient mental health care and services provided outside hospital.

A related consultation is taking place at the same time in West Sussex.

This document is a summary of the full consultation document. To obtain a copy of the full document, and to request copies in alternative formats, languages or Braille, please contact:

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Why change?

Our services outside hospital are continuing to develop so that they offer consistent and high quality support close to people's homes, including

- help to stay at work and to participate fully in their local communities,
- new services for people with mild to moderate mental health issues, and
- specialist community services providing 24-hour support to people with more severe conditions who would in the past have been likely to need hospital admission.

As a result the balance of services is changing, meaning that fewer people with mental health problems will need to be admitted to hospital in future.

The full consultation document sets out the rationale for change in much more detail.

What are the proposals?

We propose a gradual reduction in the number of inpatient mental health beds in East Sussex. We believe it will be right and safe to do this alongside increasing the range, capacity and performance of community mental health services, reducing hospital admissions and reducing the length of inpatient stay to recommended levels.

We propose to introduce new standards for community mental health services and reduce the number of inpatient mental health beds across East Sussex over the next 12-18 months from 122 to between 92-100 (removing between 22 and 30 beds).

Over the next 3-5 years we believe it may be possible to reduce the number of inpatient mental health beds further to around 80 and provide them in new 'state of the art' facilities. We want your views on both the short-to-medium and longer term options.

Inpatient beds for people with dementia in are not affected by the proposals set out in this consultation. Our longer term aim is to explore whether and how elderly people with dementia could be better cared for in more shared-care wards within district general hospitals.

Short to medium term (12-18 months) options

- **Option 1**

One 27 bed ward would be removed from the Eastbourne District General Hospital, Department of Psychiatry Unit.

- **Option 2**

One 20 bed ward would be removed from the Eastbourne District General Hospital, Department of Psychiatry Unit and 10 beds would be removed from the Woodlands unit at the Hastings Conquest Hospital.

- **Option 3**

One 27 bed ward would be removed from the Eastbourne District General Hospital, Department of Psychiatry Unit, 10 beds would be removed from the Woodlands unit at the Hastings Conquest Hospital and 15 beds would be made available to service users from Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford at the Mill View Hospital, Hove.

Longer term options (three to five years)

- **One site option**

General and vulnerable adult inpatient care for all of East Sussex would be provided from a facility based on one site. However, with only one site, some patients will have to travel further for their inpatient care.

- **Two site option**

General and vulnerable adult inpatient care for all of East Sussex would be provided from two facilities based in different parts of the county. The benefits of this option are that fewer patients will have to travel longer distances to receive inpatient care. However, clinical expertise and investment will be spread between the two sites, some facilities will be smaller than the recommended size in terms of quality and sustainability.

- **Location options**

There is a range of locations where a single facility, or where each of two facilities, could be built:

- Hastings Conquest Hospital site
- Eastbourne District General Hospital site
- Roborough Day Hospital site, Eastbourne
- Hellingly Hospital site, near Hailsham
- A new site somewhere in East Sussex.

The full consultation document contains much more detail about the options, how they were developed and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Each of the options would, if agreed, be implemented in a phased programme. No beds will be removed unless and until it is safe to do so and alternative services are in place.

Having your say

We want to hear the views of as many people as possible to help us make sure we make the best decisions about how and where services are provided in the future.

The public consultation is running from 8 March to 1 June 2010 and the deadline for feedback on the proposals is 12.00 midday on 1 June 2010.

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

Public meetings and events

There will be a series of public meetings where you will be able to find out more about the proposals, and put your questions to NHS East Sussex Down & Weald, NHS Hastings & Rother and Sussex Partnership and clinical experts.

18 March	10.00 – 12.00	Weald Hall, Uckfield
24 March	18.30 – 20.30	Royal Victoria Hotel, St Leonards on Sea
30 March	14.00 – 16.00	International Lawn Tennis Centre, Eastbourne

If you would like an individual meeting, or run a community group and would like us to attend and talk about our plans, please call us on 01273 403550.

Feedback form

There is a feedback form you can complete. Alternatively, you can write, e-mail or telephone:

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Online

During the consultation more information will be made available on our websites www.esdw.nhs.uk and www.hastingsandrother.nhs.uk along with up-to-date information about events and meetings. You will also be able to give your feedback online.

What happens next?

During the consultation, all the feedback and responses, along with notes of the public meetings, will be collated and analysed by an independent analyst. At the end of the consultation they will produce a report identifying the themes and issues raised which will be presented to the boards of NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald, NHS Hastings & Rother and Sussex Partnership.

The final decision will be made in public by the boards of NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald and NHS Hastings & Rother, once they have had time to consider the consultation feedback and responses.

Getting the consultation document in a different language or format

The consultation document is available in large print, in Braille and on audio tape; if you would like a copy, please call 01273 403550.

If you would like the document in another language or format, or if you need the services of an interpreter, please contact us on the details below. Please remember to include a telephone number or address so we can get back to you:

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