

Update for Oxfordshire HOSC: Temporary Closure of City Community Ward

July 2019

Current position

- The ward was temporarily closed to patients on 31st May 2019.
- Staff Consultation was completed on 7th June 2019. All staff members have been redeployed across Community Hospital wards and are settling well.
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OH) Patient Liaison Advice Service (PALS) are asking all community hospital inpatients if they experience issues with being visited by family members or being placed further away from home for their rehabilitation. This will enable them to look at the home location to see if there is a negative impact on patients displaced from City postcodes. To date no negative responses as a result of this work have been received.

Recruitment

- OH continues to actively recruit to the registered nurse vacancies for City Community Hospital, with a dedicated recruitment team supporting this work. NHS Creatives have been engaged to assist us with a social media campaign focussing on Community Hospital recruitment.
- To date the following posts for City Community Hospital have been recruited:
 - Band 7 Ward Manager (external appointment)
 - Band 6 Deputy Ward Manager (external appointment)
 - Band 6 Clinical Development Nurse (external appointment)
- Eight Band 5 vacancies remain and are currently advertised – four applicants are being interviewed in August. There are also plans to move at least one Registered Band 5 nurse from another site to City Comm.
- External candidates recruited are going through employment check processes with a view to start dates in September/ October.
- Once staff commence employment, they will be inducted on other community hospital wards in readiness for reopening City Community Hospital. All candidates are fully aware of the temporary closure of City Community Hospital.
- OH anticipate being in a position to make a decision about the re-opening of City Community Hospital by the end September 2019.

Maintaining Bed Provision

- Currently OH have 130 beds open across all community hospitals, the same number of beds as this time for the last two Summers.

- OH have successfully opened the additional four Stroke beds, bringing us to the full 20 stroke beds.

System Wide Planning

A system wide group has been set up to consider the following-

- The conditions required for safely reopening City community beds in the Fulbrook centre; or,
 - If not there, where else could beds be re-provided; or,
 - If not beds, then what other tangible offer could we make to the residents of Oxford City.

The group is meeting fortnightly and includes good representation from the whole Oxfordshire system.