



Our plans for changes to inpatient services for older people

Answers to people's questions about our plans for dementia and mental health services





Questions about our plans

1



Questions about how our services work now

4



Questions about our plans for the changes

20



Questions about The Poplars

25



Questions about staff

29



Information for Calderdale

31



Information for Kirklees

34



Information for Wakefield

35



Information for Barnsley

37

Questions about our plans

Lots of people have read our plans about changes to our dementia and mental health services.



We want to have new, separate wards for older people with dementia and people with mental health needs.



You need to read our plans about the changes first.



You can find our plans in easy read on our website:

www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/OPS-consultation-summary-document-EASY-READ-FINAL.pdf



We are asking people what they think about our plans.

A white survey form titled "Questions" in bold black text. Below the title are two blue speech bubbles, each containing a white question mark. The first question is "1. What do you think about it?". Below the question are three checkboxes: "Good", "Bad", and "Not sure". The "Not sure" checkbox is checked with a blue mark. A hand holding a black pen is shown writing on the form.

We have written a survey to ask people what they think.



You can find the easy read survey online on our website:

www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/older-peoples-inpatient-consulation-EASY-READ-2.pdf



Some people had some questions about our plans. They wanted to find out more information.

In this booklet, we have tried to answer everyone's questions.



If you have any other questions about the plans for the changes, you can contact us:

By email:
opsconsultation@swyt.nhs.uk



By phone:
0800 587 2108

Questions about how our services work now



What are you doing to help people stay at home for longer?

We want less people to need to stay in hospital. We try to help people to stay at home at long as they can.



To do this, we:

- have teams that can support people in their local community
- and
- give people advice on where they can go for more help and support



What is the difference between a mental health ward, a main hospital ward and a care home?



People stay on a mental health ward when it is not safe for them to stay at home because of their mental health.



They may have a health condition as well, but their mental health is the main thing.



People stay on a main hospital ward if they need treatment for a health condition. Things like if they have broken their leg or they need an operation.



They may have a mental health problem as well, but their health condition is the main thing.



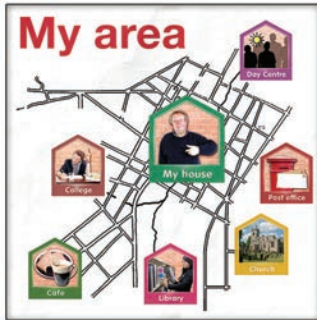
We work together closely with staff from the main hospital wards. We make sure people get the care and treatment they need.



People may stay in a care home when they cannot get the care and support they need at home.

Why do you have to move people to different wards?

There are lots of reasons why we might move people to a different ward. This might be:



- so they are in a ward that is closer to their home



- if we think we can meet people's needs better on a different ward

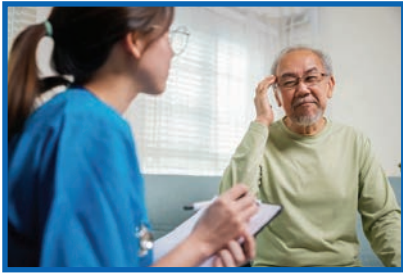


- so they are in a ward that is just for men or just for women



We have a mental health service at The Poplars in Hemsworth.

People move to the Poplars when they have been on another ward.



Doctors and nurses spend some time with the person on the other ward.

They check what the person needs help with first.



Then the doctor decides if the Poplars would be a good ward for the person to move to.

How do you work together with people's family and carers?



Carers and family are really important. They know the person best and what the person needs.



We work closely together with the patient and their family and carers to plan care.



This includes thinking about helping the patient to move back home.



We ask families and carers to come to any meetings about the person.



Staff in the community support families and carers when the person leaves hospital.



Do all patients have their own rooms and bathrooms?

All patients have their own bedrooms.



Not all bedrooms have their own bathroom. Some people have to use a shared bathroom.

Do people have to stay on the ward because of the law?



Some people have to stay on the ward because of a law called the **mental health act**.

This law tells people with mental health problems what their **rights** are.



Your **rights** are things you are allowed to do and how you should be treated for your mental health.



Some people on the ward are being helped by a law called the **Mental Capacity Act**.



Mental capacity means understanding and remembering information so you can make your own decisions.



The Mental Capacity Act supports people to make their own decisions.



It also protects people who cannot make their own decisions about some things.



Some people who are being helped by the Mental Capacity Act cannot leave the ward.

The law makes sure they are being looked after properly and kept safe.



Some people are staying on the ward for care and support. They are not staying because of the law.

These people can leave the ward if they want to.

Is there a team of people who care for patients on the ward?



There are lots of people who support patients on our wards. This might be people like:



- physiotherapists. These are people who can help with some exercises for you to do



- occupational therapists. These are people who can help with things to help you manage day to day activities



- social workers. These are people who can help someone get the right support when they leave hospital.



They can also help them find somewhere to live.



- pharmacists. These are people who sort out your medication



- dietitians. These are people who can help with finding the right things to eat and drink



- advocates. This is someone who can help you to speak up for yourself. Or they can speak up for you if you want.

Do you support John's campaign?



John's campaign is work to support people with dementia. It says that family and carers are really important.



We think John's campaign has a lot of good ideas.



Hospitals should work together with families and carers to support people with dementia in the best way.



We have visiting times on our wards. These are times when family and carers can come and visit people on the ward.



We often change these times for families and carers of people with dementia. They can come and visit at times that are best for the person.

What are the different types of wards?



Gender means whether you feel like you are a man or a woman. Or you might not see yourself as a man or a woman.



A mixed **gender** ward is when men and women stay on the same ward.



A single sex ward is when there is a ward just for women. And there is a ward just for men.



Non-binary means you do not see yourself as a man or a woman.



Gender fluid means you might feel like:

- you do not have a gender



- your gender changes. Sometimes you feel like you are a man. Other times you feel like you are a woman.



- you feel like a man and a woman at the same time



We work together with patients who are **non-binary** or **gender fluid**.

We decide together which ward is best for them.

How do wards follow the rules about single sex wards?



In 2019, the NHS made some rules about people staying on wards.



The rules said that wards should have:

- lounges and bathrooms that are for women only

and

- bedrooms that are for women only



Women patients should not have to walk past men patients to get to these areas.



Most of our wards follow these rules.



The Poplars has a shared area that is used by both men and women patients.



To get to the women's bathroom, women have to walk through the shared area.



When this happens, women are supported by a member of staff.

How do you keep people safe on the ward?



It is really important that we keep people safe on our wards.



When a patient comes to stay on the ward, we ask some questions.

This helps us to know how to keep that person and other people safe.

If people get benefits will they stop getting money if they go into hospital?



Benefits are money you get from the Government if you can't work or don't have enough money to live.

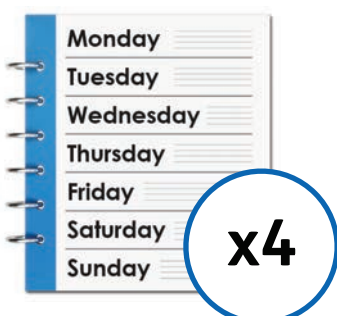
This might be because of a disability or illness.



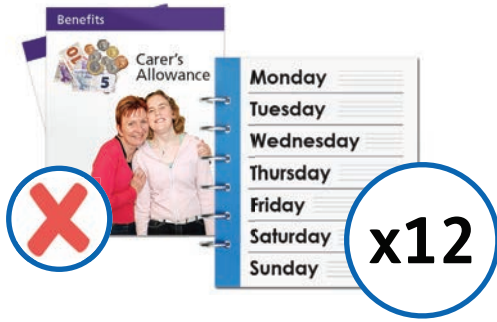
Most people will keep getting their benefits when they are staying on the ward.



You cannot get **Attendance Allowance** or **Personal Independence Payment** when you are staying on the ward.



These benefits will stop 4 weeks after you start staying on the ward.



If you get **carers allowance**, this will stop 12 weeks after you start staying on the ward.



When you leave hospital, you can ask the benefit office to start paying your benefits again.

Questions about our plans for the changes

Will the changes save any money?



Making the changes will cost us more money.

Why can't you build a new hospital instead of making changes?



The building work to make the changes will only take a few months.



It will take up to 10 years to build a new hospital. And it will cost a lot more money.



Making the changes will help us to give a better service to patients quicker.

How will you support people with communication or language needs?



Communication is about being able to tell other people what you want or think.



We look at everyone's communication needs.



Having a dementia ward means we can give people with dementia better support with their communication.

Will all patients have their own bedrooms and bathrooms?



All patients will still have their own bedrooms.



More bedrooms will have their own bathroom.



But not everyone will have their own bathroom. We will still have some shared bathrooms.



All of our wards will have:

- lounges that are for women only
- and
- some bathrooms that are for men only and some bathrooms that are for women only



How will you support families and carers to travel a long way to visit patients?



When we make the changes, some people might have to travel further to go to hospital.



This means their friends and family have to travel further to come and see them.

We are looking at what support we can give to people. This might be:



- working together with families, carers and staff. We will look at what transport there is.



Things like buses, trains and taxis.



- working together with charities and local groups. We will look at what support people can get with travel.



- giving people clear information about how to travel to our wards



- using **CHATpads**. These are tablets we have on the ward. Patients can use them to speak to their family and carers.



- looking at transport often to make sure we are giving people the right support



What people tell us will help us to choose the best way to help family, carers and visitors.

Questions about The Poplars

Is the Poplars only for people from some parts of Wakefield?



The Poplars is used by people from Wakefield, Barnsley, Calderdale and Kirklees.

Why does the ward at The Poplars only have 12 beds?



When The Poplars first opened, it had 15 beds.



Over time, patients needs have changed. We don't need 15 beds anymore.

We usually only have around 10 people on the ward at any time.

What will happen to The Poplars?



The service we have at The Poplars in Hemsworth will move somewhere else. We will decide where when we have listened to what people tell us.

When we stop using The Poplars it might:



- be used for other health and care services

or



- be sold to another organisation

Why are you not keeping The Poplars service in Hemsworth?

When we looked at our wards, we found out that The Poplars:



- was not meeting people's needs in the best way



- is a long way from other hospitals.

This means:



- people often cannot get emergency medical help quickly

and

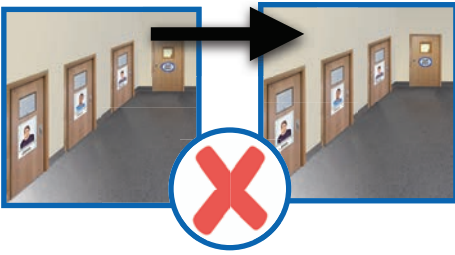


- staff cannot get support from other staff quickly in an emergency

When we make the changes:



- people will be closer to a main hospital ward. They will be able to get medical help and support quickly in an emergency.



- we will not need to move people to different wards as often



- there will be more staff on the dementia ward to support people with dementia

What will happen to the patients who are in the poplars?

People who are already on the ward in The Poplars will stay where they are for now.



When we decide which option we will choose, we will start to think about where patients need to move to.

Questions about staff

What will happen to staff?

Some staff might have to move to a different hospital to work.



We will talk to any staff about the changes.



We will ask staff at The Poplars about the changes and what they want to happen.



How will you make sure you have the right staff with the right skills and knowledge?



We already have staff with skills and knowledge in dementia and mental health needs.



We will give staff more training in dementia and mental health needs. This will help staff give patients the support they need.



We will make a plan about getting good staff and keeping them.



We will have more staff on our dementia ward. This is because people with dementia need more 1 to 1 support.

Information for Calderdale

What do the changes mean for people from Calderdale?



People with mental health needs will likely stay in Beechdale Ward at Calderdale Hospital in Halifax.



People with dementia will stay in the new dementia ward. This will be in Dewsbury or Wakefield.



This means some people will stay in hospital close to their home.



Some people will stay in a hospital that is further away.

Will the number of beds at Calderdale hospital change?



There will still be 16 beds at Calderdale Hospital in Halifax.



The ward will only be for people with mental health needs. These people will mostly come from Calderdale or Kirklees.

Could the ward in Halifax change to be a dementia ward?



The ward at Halifax would not work well for people with dementia.

It works best for people with mental health needs.

Will people have to travel a long way to get to the dementia ward?

The new dementia ward will be at Dewsbury or Wakefield.



We know this means families and carers might have to travel to visit patients.



We want to know how travel will affect people. You can fill in our survey to tell us what you think.

A survey form titled 'Questions' in bold black text. Below the title are two speech bubbles, each containing a question mark. The first question is '1. What do you think about it?'. Below the question are three checkboxes: 'Good', 'Bad', and 'Not sure'. The 'Not sure' checkbox is checked with a blue mark. A hand holding a black pen is shown writing on the form.

This will help us to decide which option to choose.



Information for Kirklees

What do the changes mean for people from Kirklees?

If we choose option 1:

People with dementia will stay in the new dementia ward. This will be at Dewsbury Hospital.



People with mental health needs will stay at the hospital in Halifax or Wakefield.



If we choose option 2:

People with dementia will stay in the new dementia ward. This will be at Fieldhead Hospital in Wakefield.



People with mental health needs will stay at the hospital in Halifax or Dewsbury.

Information for Wakefield

What do the changes mean for people from Wakefield?

If we choose option 1:

People with dementia will stay in the new dementia ward. This will be at Dewsbury Hospital.



People with mental health needs will likely stay at Fieldhead Hospital in Wakefield.

If we choose option 2:

People with dementia will stay in the new dementia ward. This will be at Fieldhead Hospital in Wakefield.



People with mental health needs will likely stay at Dewsbury Hospital.



With both options some people will stay in hospital near their home.

Some people will stay in a hospital that is further away.

Why are you planning building work at Fieldhead Hospital before you have decided on the changes?

All of our ideas will need some building work.



We need to make sure plans are ready for this so that we can get started as quickly as possible.



This will help us to spend our money in the best way.



We can change or cancel our plans once we have made our decision.

Information for Barnsley



There is no change to mental health wards in Barnsley.



There are no dementia beds in Barnsley.



If people need a dementia bed, they have to stay at a hospital away from where they live.



If people from Barnsley need a dementia bed, they may stay on the new dementia ward.