

News Release

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Centre of Excellence Building Plans on Schedule for Mental Health Hospital Care

The Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) is pleased to announce that building works are on schedule at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit (at the Glenfield Hospital site) and patients will be moving in to 2 newly rebuilt and refurbished wards in mid-December. The hospital unit is currently being developed into a centre of excellence for inpatient care.

At present, adult patients are cared for at 2 acute inpatient sites - the Bradgate Unit and the Brandon Unit (at the Leicester General Hospital). Developing the centre of excellence will allow all acute adult wards to be co-located in a single improved facility and alongside other specialist mental health services.

The centre of excellence development is being phased over the next 3-5 years. It includes substantial improvements to the hospital environment and also changes to improve the way care is provided to patients.

Improvements include rebuilding and refurbishing wards to provide more single en-suite rooms and private garden areas, and changing the way staff work to allow more time to be spent on direct patient care.

Staff and patients from 2 wards at the Brandon Unit will transfer to the new facilities in December. This will leave 2 wards remaining at the Brandon Unit – one for older adults and one for people with eating disorders. It is planned that both these wards will move to newly refurbished accommodation at the Bennion Centre (adjacent to the Bradgate Unit) in early spring 2013. These moves will eventually allow the older, more out-dated Brandon Unit to close.

Director of Adult Mental Health Services Paul Miller explains;

“We’re pleased building work is going to plan, as this development not only gives us the opportunity to reshape and improve services, it also means that we can offer patients better accommodation, in a pleasant and safe environment.

“The Brandon Unit doesn’t offer the type of modern, therapeutic environment we want to provide for patients, and there isn’t scope to redevelop this site. However, the Bradgate Unit does have development potential and is an ideal place to create a centre of excellence for inpatient care.”

The centre of excellence is being developed in stages, with LPT investing £23 million over the next 5 years. LPT has already invested over £9 million creating the 4 new wards and also opened a new Involvement Centre at the Bradgate site in March. Building work is expected to begin on a further 2 wards in April 2012.

The cost of the centre of excellence programme is being met by the sale of surplus and outdated Trust buildings, including the old Towers Hospital – which is now predominantly used by administrative support services.

Notes to Editors

- Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living in the city of Leicester and the neighbouring counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. We serve a population of one million and have a budget in excess of £250 million and employ almost 6,000 staff.
- Staff and patients from Knighton Ward and Stretton Ward currently located at the Brandon Unit will transfer to the Bradgate Unit in December 2011

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