

8 November 2018

Transforming mental health services in Hambleton and Richmondshire

Update

We are committed to providing local people with the best possible mental health care and making sure they get the support they need when and where they need it.

Following a public consultation and a decision made in October last year, we agreed plans to strengthen community services to support more people at home and reduce the need for admission to hospital. We also committed to investing in a new community mental health hub in Northallerton.

As outlined in previous briefings, we're already making progress with some of this work and this has already helped to reduce the number of people who need to stay in hospital. This work is continuing and construction of the community hub will start in 2019.

We have now agreed detailed plans for the transfer of adult and older people's inpatient services from the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton by the end of February 2019 (there will be no new admissions to the wards after 1 January 2019). This is in line with the outcome of the public consultation.

As detailed during the consultation, we expect that most people will receive the care and support they need in their home environment. However, some people will still need to spend time in hospital and it was agreed in October last year that people would be admitted to either West Park Hospital at Darlington or Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough whilst specialist inpatient care for people with dementia will continue to be provided at Auckland Park in Bishop Auckland.

This hasn't changed. However, because of the ongoing building work at Roseberry Park to fix a range of serious construction problems we have agreed that whenever possible older people from Hambleton and Richmondshire will be admitted to West Park Hospital in Darlington. We expect older people's services to return to Roseberry Park in Autumn 2019. Although this will only affect a small number of patients and their families we will do everything we can to minimise the impact it will have. If we need to admit anyone to other Trust locations we will support families to visit their loved ones.

More detailed information about the transfer of inpatient services and information about our enhanced community services will be provided to patients and their families and will be available on our website as soon as they are finalised.