

Briefing paper: Temporary overnight closure of Stratton Minor Injury Unit

Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust announced that due to staffing shortages it had taken the decision to temporarily close Stratton Minor Injury Unit (MIU) overnight on 7 December 2018. The unit was previously open 24/7.

The reduced opening hours were based on the times when the unit was most in demand eg between 8am and 10pm.

Current position

Since the last update to members of Cornwall Council's Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Trust has not recruited enough staff to reopen Stratton MIU overnight. Active recruitment to these roles continues.

However, the Trust has been successful in recruiting three registered nurses (RNs) who will work between Stratton and Launceston Hospitals.

Unfortunately these nurses have no previous MIU experience and will need to undertake additional specialist training. This has been secured and will take at least six months to complete. These nurses will join the Trust in May 2019. Places on an appropriate training course have already been secured.

In the meantime, another nurse from the MIU has resigned. This post has already been advertised.

The Trust will review the position again at the end of July 2019.

Community engagement

An extraordinary meeting was called by the Bude Community Network Panel. This was held on 14 February 2019 and attended by over 100 members of the public. Jackie Pendleton, Dr Tamsyn Anderson, Anita Cornelius and Matron, Su Buse



attended on behalf of NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CFT).

Questions were presented by members of the public and responses given by both the CCG and CFT.

Ongoing work

In the meantime, the Trust has been working with the CCG, local GPs, the out of hour's service, the South Western Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST), the League of Friends and members of the community.

Councillor David Parsons, has joined the local project group. He will undertake a patient focus group with local patient participation groups and the League of Friends.

In light of the recruitment challenges, the Project Group has agreed to review the model of care in the area. This will start with a multi-agency focus group meeting in April 2019.

Council colleagues from Holsworthy will be asked to join these discussions to ensure the group understands the wider local context.

To support this, information has been requested by the CCG from SWAST and the out of hour's service on local response times and the level of demand.

A variety of recruitment routes continue to be explored to attract staff into these posts. In the meantime, anyone who knows of a RN in the local area who is looking for a job should put them in touch with Su the Matron at Stratton Hospital.

Update: March 2019

