

Ward 4 Closure at Harplands Hospital

Ward 4 was opened in January 2015 in response to significant system pressures and a major capacity incident.

Since that point due to the work of clinical staff across organisational boundaries the ward has developed and provides high quality care to patients with a combination of physical health needs and Dementia that were previously un-catered for.

It subsequently closed mid July 2016.

During June, NSUG contacted both CCG's and both Healthwatch's, as well as local councillors and MP's.

Response from Sally Parkin, Clinical Director of Partnerships and Engagement (North Staffordshire and Stoke CCG's):

Thank you for contacting me regarding ward 4 at Harplands Hospital and I apologise that it has taken a few days to get back to you. On behalf of North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent CCGs I can share with you that although the funding for Ward Four has now come to an end we have learned a great deal from its operation about shared models of care and we are delighted with the positive experiences of our patients.

The knowledge gained will help us in commissioning new services to ensure that patients continue to get the best possible outcomes and we are actively exploring a number of options to replace this service.

As we were unhappy with this response, we sent the following questions to both Stoke and North Staffordshire Patient Congress:

Have the CCG's commissioned a new service already to replace ward 4?

If they have, what engagement has been done with organisations like Approach, Beth Johnson, or North Staffs Carers who all support patients who have Dementia, and their Carers?

If a new service has not been commissioned, what will happen to the patients from Royal Stoke who are in beds there now, who would have been admitted to ward 4 and what will happen in the coming months when beds will be under pressure again, as this will almost surely happen?

We have yet to receive a reply.