

£160 million once in a lifetime transformation of mental health services approved

Published Date: 27 March 2015

Patients and staff at South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust are celebrating today, as plans for a £160 million revamp of mental health services in south west London were approved by NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) in Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

The modernisation plans will completely transform mental health services in south west London. They will create two state of the art centres of excellence for mental health services in Springfield University Hospital and Tolworth Hospital, ensuring that vulnerable people in the area have access to some of the best services in the country.

These two centres will be completely paid for with a £160 million investment from the sale of surplus land mainly on the current Springfield University Hospital site. This investment will add to the five CCG's commitment to invest a further £20 million into community mental health services in the area.

A public consultation, which ran for 12 weeks between September and December 2014, proposed changes to mental health service in south west London, including the development of new inpatient facilities. These services are run by South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust.

Taking into account the feedback from public consultation and the clinical case for change, revised plans were discussed by the CCG governing bodies and NHS England at public meetings throughout February and March 2015.

David Bradley, Chief Executive of South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, said:

"This is a monumental decision and once in a lifetime opportunity to change mental health services for the people of south west London for generations to come.

"Building the two new state-of-the art hospitals will make sure the people who need our help can get the best care and treatment in the best facilities possible. The CCG's commitment to invest a further £20 million in community mental health services means we will help people get better, closer to home. This will make a very real and lasting difference to the lives of all the people who use our services, and a lasting legacy for the area.

"On behalf of the Trust I would like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation and made this possible".

Some of the improvements to the proposals the governing bodies have agreed following feedback from consultation include:

- Keeping adult deaf services on the Springfield site due to the deaf community that has built up in this area around services.
- A CCG commitment to increasing overall mental health spending by £20 million to £157.2 million over the next five years.
- Working with service users and families via two travel steering groups to improve travel plans and access issues.
- Improving facilities for families and carers by providing visitor rooms on every ward and overnight accommodation at Tolworth for people visiting children.

- Adding in flexibility around bed numbers with contingency for a seventh adult mental health ward.
- Ensuring excellent education provision is in place prior to the opening of children's inpatients services in Tolworth.
- Working on plans to use part of Barnes Hospital for outpatient clinical services.

Dr Phil Moore, Mental Health Clinical Lead for Kingston CCG, said:

"The CCGs and NHS England were unanimous in their approval of these modernisation plans.

"We have also agreed £20 million of investment into community mental health services over the next five years to support people in the community with mild and moderate mental ill health.

"It is essential that we invest in mental health services that are modern, efficient, and provide the best care for our patients. Some of the buildings that we are using were first built over 150 years ago. Although the Trust provide an excellent level of care, operating from these buildings forces staff to make compromises. People in south west London with severe mental health problems will benefit massively from the plans we have agreed today.

"Mental health patients, like any other patient in hospital, deserve the very best possible treatment and care in an environment that supports their recovery. "

You can read the full report on the modernisation of mental health services and the independent report into the consultation [here](#).

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. The consultation was managed and carried out by the five south west London CCGs (Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth) and NHS England working with South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust.
2. For more information on the consultation or an interview with Dr Phil Moore please contact Maria Vidal-Read on 07811 462 287 or email maria.vidal@wandsworthccg.nhs.uk
3. For more information about the services at South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, please contact Alia Carter on Alia.Carter@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk or call 020 3513 5972.
4. During the consultation period commissioners wrote to over 7,000 people including staff, service users, family members, carers, voluntary groups, local councils, elected representatives and health and social care partners. Adverts were placed in local papers, and a dedicated Twitter account, email address, phone line and web page was set up. Finally as well as the five main public events we hosted, commissioners also attended 74 meetings throughout the area and ran a webinar about the national specialised services.
5. 283 people responded to the consultation survey, we received 76 letters and emails and 191 people attended our five main engagement events, as well as the hundreds of other people we talked to at the 74 meetings throughout the five boroughs. Most people who responded strongly agreed with the need for change and with our proposals for two centres of excellence at Springfield and Tolworth for the national and local services. Services covered in this consultation include mental health inpatient services for people in south west London and regional specialised services including obsessive compulsive disorder and body dysmorphia, adult eating disorder, deaf services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).