

MEDIA RELEASE

21 November 2016

Pilot community NHS bed receives first patients along with generous local support

A pilot community NHS bed in the North Yorkshire Dales has received its first patients along with a generous financial grant from Richmondshire District Council with support from local residents.

The community bed, funded by NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) opened in August of this year and has so far successfully admitted and discharged three local patients.

The purpose of this pilot was to trial a model of 'step-up/step-down' beds so patients are able to receive care as close to their own homes and communities as possible, for up to six weeks.

Step-up/step-down beds are a short stay arrangement in extra supported housing schemes to assist patients with regaining mobility and retaining daily living skills so they can ultimately return to living safely in their own home. These beds can also be a preferred place of care for patients at end of life.

The pilot facility based in Sycamore Hall extra care housing at Bainbridge, is not just a bed, but an entire flat funded by the CCG. Patients who are referred to the facility by their local GP have access to their own kitchen, bathroom and living room as well as other communal areas including a garden with views of Wensleydale.

To help make patients feel even more at home, a generous sum of £500 was granted by Richmondshire District Council after an appeal by lay CCG representative and Richmondshire resident, Jane Ritchie MBE.

Jane Ritchie MBE said: "I was so pleased to be told that Richmondshire District Council was happy to grant £500 towards furnishing the step-up/step-down bed in Bainbridge.

"Although the CCG fund the flat and the medical equipment, it's really important that patients, who aren't quite well enough to be in their own home, feel as 'at home' as possible. Therefore items like a television, wall clock and pay phone were kindly donated by residents of Richmondshire.

“West Burton Art Group has even donated a number of pictures for display in the flat.”

Following the opening of the pilot at the end of August, the first patient was identified as a suitable ‘step-up’ patient by their own GP.

Gill Collinson, Chief Nurse of the CCG said:

“We understand that the patient’s medical needs had deteriorated but did not necessarily require hospital care; however their long term health and social care needs required careful planning to allow them to return safely to their preferred ‘home environment’.

“The patient’s GP referred them into Sycamore Hall for a period of two weeks – within 24 hours, they had their own bedroom, lounge and kitchen fully stocked with a ‘welcome pack’ containing tea and coffee, biscuits and food supplies. They received hot drinks and three meals a day including one three course meal.

“The flat provides a homely environment for patients to both recover and recuperate regaining strength and the confidence to undertake daily tasks in a safe place.”

The patient received daily visits from an integrated team of health and social care professionals and personal care over a two week period. The patient’s own GP visited to provide medical care and monitor progress.

During this time the patient’s family were able to make arrangements and organise additional family support for when they returned home which they called a “relief” and “vital”.

The family also commented that “having access to a wheelchair and the beautiful grounds at Sycamore Hall” enabled them to take the patient out and visit their own home to discuss their own discharge plan. The patient also said that “it was a busy time and it was nice to have a quiet bed to go back to.”

Gill Collinson continues: “After two weeks, the integrated health and social care team told us that the patient returned home and their previous care package was reinstated.”

Dr Jonathan Pain, local GP said: “If the step-up/step down bed in Bainbridge had not been available, this patient would have either been admitted to a hospital bed or a private nursing home bed. Neither option would have been near home nor could their care have been provided by their own GP.

“Access to this bed has allowed this patient to remain in their own community whilst their health and social care plans were agreed by the multi-disciplinary team, patient and family without the additional emotional pressure of removal from their community. This provides a holistic person-centred approach which helps with clinical decision-making.”

Following recent results of a public consultation on community health services called 'Transforming Our Communities' and feedback from the pilot in Bainbridge, the CCG is now implementing these beds in other identified areas of Hambleton and Richmondshire. The commissioning of step-up/step-down beds will take place on a phased approach in line with the implementation plans.

Gill Collinson continues: "Thanks to generous support and community spirit, the environment in Sycamore Hall really does feel like 'home'.

"On behalf of the CCG, I would like to thank health and social care staff, Richmondshire District Council, local residents and Jane for their enthusiasm for this pilot. We're really looking forward to implementing the next stage of 'Transforming Our Communities' where this kind of community care will be available in other areas of Hambleton and Richmondshire."

The full consultation report for 'Transforming Our Communities' is now available to view on the CCG's website:

www.hambletonrichmondshireandwhitbyccg.nhs.uk/transforming-our-communities

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For further information please contact HRW CCG Communications and Engagement on 01609 767621.

Notes

Picture caption: Sycamore Hall Extra Care Housing facility

Picture caption: View from the bedroom of the step-up/step-down facility

Consultation process

The CCG started the consultation with South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) in July. This was initiated earlier than planned due to the unforeseen temporary closure of the Lambert Memorial Hospital in Thirsk which meant that an empty building was continuing to be funded.

A series of listening events took place which informed the collation of the three consultation options. The CCG met regularly with the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee to ensure a clear and fair consultation process. The formal consultation closed at 5pm on Friday 7 October 2016.

Following a 14 week formal consultation with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders, the CCG presented the results and recommendations to the CCG's Governing Body on Thursday 27 October for a formal decision.

Our vision

Our vision for community services in Hambleton and Richmondshire was first shared in 2013. Since then, we have been out and about speaking with stakeholders and members of the public about their health services at a number of meetings, events and shows.

This early vision was:

- Keeping people in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Provide more information for patients and their carers.
- Facilitate social interaction.
- Encourage integrated working with partners.
- Expand the role of technology.
- Provide more support to carers.

From engagement, we know that:

- Patients want to be cared for at home or as close to home as possible.
- Integration of health and social care services is important.
- The Friarage is at the heart of Hambleton and Richmondshire localities.

Clinical evidence shows us that:

- Many patients can be cared for in their own homes with integrated health and care support.
- Frail elderly patients should be in hospital for as short a time as possible – they do better at or nearer home.

From the feedback received during this engagement we have developed our vision further and proposed a transformation plan for community services.

