



Finding a long-term solution for the mental health services that were provided from the George Bryan Centre

7 October 2021

If you are affected by anything in this document, contact our Urgent NHS Mental Health Helpline for support, advice and triage.

FREEPHONE 24/7: 0808 196 3002



Who we are and what this is about

Together We're Better is a partnership of NHS, local councils and voluntary sector groups that is working together to improve health and care services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Our vision is to work with you to make Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent the healthiest places to live and work.

This paper is about mental health services in south east Staffordshire (Burton upon Trent, Lichfield, Tamworth and surrounding areas) and the inpatient beds at the George Bryan Centre, in particular.

Early in 2019, the West wing of the George Bryan Centre was destroyed by fire. People in the West Wing on the night of the fire were transferred to St George's Hospital to continue their treatment.

The East wing was later temporarily closed for safety reasons. The size and location of the ward made response to medical and psychiatric emergencies difficult, which put service users, visiting carers and staff at risk.

After the fire, temporary arrangements were put in place.

Anyone living in Burton upon Trent, Lichfield, Tamworth and surrounding areas who needed an inpatient stay was admitted to St George's Hospital in Stafford, and enhanced community mental health services provided support to enable people to stay in their own home.

This included:

- Enhanced crisis home treatments with skilled, experienced older adult specialists
- Addition of a nursing/therapy lead
- New clinical psychologist to focus on older adults
- A training plan for the team.

A series of engagement events took place in 2019 to understand people's views about the services and where improvements could be made to help shape the long-term solutions.

[The report was published and is available on the Together We're Better website.](#)

The MPFT Board received [a report](#) (page 141) detailing the outcomes of an exercise MPFT had undertaken, and agreed to support the system-wide exercise to determine the long-term solution for those services.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed further public engagement, but we are now ready to restart the process to find the long-term solution for the George Bryan Centre.

We are keen to hear from people about their experiences of mental health services since the fire, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our model of mental health services for the future


We have been working with existing service users, carers and staff to find a way to realise locally, the national vision for a community mental health model as set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), published in 2019.

Our vision is that by working together, we create mental health services that are inclusive, accessible, value people as they are, and are responsive to their needs.

We will embrace innovation and new ways of working to remove traditional barriers, improve communication and training, and provide personalised support that enables people to live well and realise their full potential.

The guiding principles are:

- To improve and simplify access to care
- To use a Trusted Assessor Model – so you don't have to re-tell your story every time
- To have one digital plan which all services can access and update
- For you to have a named worker
- To provide flexible and personalised care that meets your needs
- To provide safe services for you, your carers and our staff
- For all partners to work closely together to join-up our services
- To support your physical health needs.

 [Watch an animation from NHS England and NHS Improvement explaining the national model](#)

Mental health staff, doctors and nurses will work with local GP practices, social workers and local communities to offer services closer to home.

Adults would have access to a mental health crisis response service 24 hours a day, based in the local community.

Admission should only be considered when a person is so seriously ill as to require intensive medical supervision and treatment, and when their home circumstances mean this is impossible.

The George Bryan Centre

The George Bryan Centre was purpose-built in 1995 to the standards required at the time.

It provided inpatient mental health services to people living in Burton upon Trent, Lichfield, Tamworth and the surrounding areas.

The West wing provided 19 beds for people aged 18 to 65 with serious mental health needs. The East wing had 12 beds for people aged over 65.

Not all treatments and interventions were available to people staying in the George Bryan Centre and so some people who had severe mental health needs were admitted to St George's Hospital, in Stafford, because of the more intensive support that can be offered in a larger hospital.

Additional interventions that are available at St George's that were not available at the George Bryan Centre include art therapy, music therapy and occupational therapy.

St George's Hospital has 168 beds. Of these, 94 are for adults from south Staffordshire with severe mental illness.



The George Bryan Centre

What we want to do

We recognise that time has passed since we held our events, so we want to understand if there is anything new we should consider as we continue to develop the clinical model that will help shape our final proposals.

We want to listen to:

- People who live in Burton upon Trent, Lichfield, Tamworth and surrounding areas who have used community mental health services since February 2019, and their carers
- People who may need mental health services in the future
- Anyone working in mental health services and organisations that support people who access these services.

We want to hear:

- From staff, patients and carers to understand experiences of mental health services since the fire
- Your ideas or suggestions about how we could provide mental health services in the future.

In October 2021, we are holding online events for you to tell us what you think.

Find out more and book your place through our website:

<https://gettinginvolved.mpft.nhs.uk/george-bryan-centre-engagement>

If you would like to share your views in writing, please complete our online survey before 31 October 2021. The survey can be found on the above website link.

Next steps

After this phase of involvement, we will analyse all the comments received and produce a report.

The report will be shared with our clinicians and professionals, and used alongside detailed analysis and data to develop a business case containing our final proposals.

This business case will be taken to the Board of Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) and the Governing Bodies of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) for a discussion.

This is likely to take several months, as we want to get this right.

Once the business case has been approved, we will want to involve service users, carers, staff and other interested groups again before any decisions are made.

We have not made any decisions yet and are still looking at the different ways we can provide mental health services for you.

More work needs to be done to make sure our future services will:

- meet the needs of local people
- be high quality and safe
- make the best use of our money.

If you need more information or need this document in another format, please contact us.

Visit our website:

<https://gettinginvolved.mpft.nhs.uk/george-bryan-centre-engagement>

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For support with the survey, please email: mlcsu.involvement@nhs.net

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