

16 October 2024

PARTNER BRIEFING FOR CHANGES TO NUMBERS OF INPATIENT MEDICAL BEDS AT THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS, RUGBY

The Trust is committed to the redevelopment of the Hospital of St Cross, Rugby as outlined in its organisational strategy, *More than a Hospital*. Over the next 10-15 years, we will invest in the Hospital to make sure we use it in the best possible way, delivering a high-quality clinical environment for our colleagues and patients. The first phase is a new theatres and ward complex, currently in application planning with Rugby Borough Council.

In January 2024, the Hospital was accredited as a regional surgical hub for Coventry and Warwickshire, in recognition of high standards of clinical care. Hubs bring together the skills and expertise of staff under one roof, with protected facilities and theatres, helping to deliver shorter waiting times for surgery.

We are already delivering more planned care from the Rugby site for more common surgical procedures such as cataracts and hip and knee replacements.

The Trust is also working in partnership with agencies to improve the experiences and outcomes of all our patients. In Coventry, new Local Integrated Teams (LITs) are supporting patients in or close to their homes following discharge to lead healthier independent lives.

The accreditation of the Hospital of St Cross as an elective hub and the success of the LITs in Coventry have led to a fall in demand for medical inpatient beds at the Hospital of St Cross. At its meeting on Thursday 3rd October, the Trust Board approved a proposal to reduce the number of inpatient beds at the Hospital of St Cross, Rugby. The 25 bedded Hoskyn ward will close on 4th December 2024.

We know that:

- On average, 50% of patients in beds on the Rugby site are Coventry residents often waiting to be discharged with support in the community.
- On average, 50% of patients in the Hospital of St Cross are Coventry residents, 44% from Warwickshire.
- The length of stay at Rugby has traditionally been high with an average 12.6 days. In recent months, it has increased to 14.1 days. We know that a long stay in hospital can negatively impact on patients medically fit for discharge.
- 30% fewer Coventry patients are being transferred to the Hospital of St Cross from University Hospital with the introduction of neighbourhood teams supporting people in their own homes following discharge.

It's important to emphasise that access to medical inpatient beds will remain the same for Rugby and Warwickshire patients at the Hospital of St Cross. For Coventry patients, it means the end of lengthy admissions away from family in Rugby and supports people to be independent in the community with improved outcomes.



We are working through a management of change process with those staff affected. Staff will be offered alternative employment on inpatient wards or outpatient services across our hospital sites, with a priority at the Hospital of St Cross.

Following the success of the Improving Lives programme in Coventry, it is hoped that a similar community-based model will be adopted in Rugby to better support people after discharge and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. The move is also in line with the new government's vision for the NHS to deliver more care closer to people's homes supporting people to live independently, and happy and healthy for as long as possible.

