

Meeting:	Public Protection & Enforcement Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	Wednesday 23 rd March 2022
Report title:	Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry Operational Directorate update
Author:	Hilary Williams, Service Director Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychology, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust Dr Shubalade Smith, Clinical Director Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychology, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update the Public Protection & Enforcement Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, Bromley Council with a report from Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychology Operations Directorate, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

1. Overview:

- The Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry Operational Directorate has continued to work closely with a wide range of stakeholders including service users, carers and their families as well as our strategic partners to bring together services to ensure our response to the pandemic is and continues to be as robust as possible.
- Our robust business continuity plans have meant that throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we have been able to continue to deliver our community and inpatient services.
- The Trust is working closely with system partners to ensure we are able to support the most vulnerable people in our communities with social care, housing, health employment, education and staying well.
- We are continuing to improve Croydon community mental health provision, under our ongoing Croydon Transformation work, to ensure there is sufficient resource and capacity throughout the system to deliver a seamless, evidence-based and person-centred service to the local population. We are also looking to support our service users' transition back to primary care and improve support for community patients following discharge. We have expanded our Certitude service on Monks Orchard

Road and have now opened “The Orchards” which offers additional step-down flats for tenants.

- Our Forensic and Offender Health Teams sit within our Behavioural and Developmental Service Line. River House Medium Secure Unit first opened on the Bethlem Royal Hospital site in 2008 and is home to seven Forensic inpatient wards, which is for our female patients.
- Our Low Secure Unit is also based within Monks Orchard House.
- We work in collaboration with other mental health provider organisations across the South London Partnership to provide comprehensive clinical pathways for this population. The South London Partnership comprises South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, South West London and St George’s Mental Health NHS Trust and Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.
- The Trust’s new five year strategy. Aiming High: Changing Lives, was launched on September 30th 2021 and was developed based on extensive engagement with staff, service users, carers, partners and communities, with input from more than 1700 people.
- The focus of the strategy is around five strategic ambition areas:
 1. Delivering outstanding mental health care
 2. A partner in prevention
 3. Being a catalyst for change
 4. Building a culture of trust together
 5. Becoming effective and sustainable
- On April 26th 2022, the Trust will run a Strategy Progress event, which is open to staff, service users and carers, partners and communities to look at our progress over the first six months of the strategy and our plans for future delivery.
- Collaborating with our local partners has allowed us to focus on prevention, access, early intervention and recovery to improve our reach and impact on people’s lives, including through the work with the One Croydon Alliance and our Recovery College, Maudsley Learning and our colleagues at King’s Health Partners.
- For more information about the organisation please see South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust’s [Annual Report and Accounts 2020/2021](#).

6. Bethlem Royal Hospital (BRH) – site update

- The Bethlem Royal Hospital site was closed to the public in March 2020 at the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in the summer months of 2021, the Trust was able to welcome visitors back to the site using a phased approach. A number of infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures remain in place to ensure Covid-19 case numbers do not increase with the additional footfall on the site.
- We continue to provide Covid-19 and Flu vaccination clinics onsite to our staff members and to those under our care.
- The Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry Operational Directorate has now reintroduced monthly Bethlem Royal Hospital Site Meetings. Key stakeholders from across the site come together to look at a number of site-based matters including site incidents and the interface with the community, including Bromley Council and clubs from the local community.

7. Bromley Protocol

- The purpose of the Bromley Protocol is to describe the actions that will be taken by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust to brief local stakeholders in the event that a forensic patient is absent without permission from our medium secure and low secure units, or in relation to another incident relating to the Bethlem Royal Hospital which may cause public concern or media interest.
- It also outlines the protocol regarding the use of our electronic monitoring system for patients who are granted leave from one of our medium or low secure units, or who need to be transferred to another location for reasons such as a court appearance or urgent medical appointment.
- The current protocol builds upon the original protocol developed in 2010 which related specifically to medium secure unit patients at Bethlem Royal Hospital and takes account of feedback from local stakeholders in Bromley and Croydon about the need to provide timely briefings about issues relating to the hospital which may cause significant public concern.
- The Trust remains committed to working with our partners at Bromley Council to support the Bromley Protocol with an agreement to review and refine the process further.
- Granting leave for patients receiving care within a medium or low secure unit is an essential part of the therapeutic process of care and recovery, however it is not granted until the health and social care professionals responsible for their care have assessed that they are responding well to treatment.

- Most episodes of leave pass without incident. On the rare occasions where this is not the case, the Trust works closely with the police and the Ministry of Justice, and proactively briefs local stakeholders via the Bromley protocol.
- There was a total of ten incidents of absconson from our medium secure wards for the period March 2021 to February 2022. One patient was responsible for three of the incidents. Absconding from leave was the most commonly recorded sub-category for 'Absent without leave' (AWOL) based incidents.
- On Thursday 18th November 2021, we welcomed a number of Bromley Councillors to the Bethlem Royal Hospital site who were joined by Trust Executive colleagues.
- The engagement forum provided an opportunity for visitors to learn more about: the services provided onsite; the medium secure unit and low secure unit pathways; managing risk and leave; a review of the Bromley protocol; a tour of some River House wards, finishing with a visit to the Museum of the Mind.

8. Summary

- Croydon and Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry Operational Directorate, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust remains committed to working with our partners at Bromley Council to support the Bromley Protocol, with an agreement to review and refine the process further.
- The Trust will continue to brief stakeholders at the earliest opportunity about any other incidents which may be likely to generate public concern or media interest, which may include any other unauthorised absence from the site and off-site incidents where the police have been called.