

Coronavirus Response: Stakeholder briefing

From Joanna Forster Adams, Chief Operating Officer

Week Ending 24 April 2020

In this week's edition

- A tribute to Khuli Nkala
- Service changes – how we're communicating them
- Key change highlights: relocation of mother and baby unit and ATU, closure of Woodland Square respite service
- Positive casers within older people's services and supported living houses
- Redeployment of our dedicated staff

Introduction

Welcome to this first edition of a new weekly briefing for our stakeholders and partners across Leeds, Yorkshire and beyond. We'll try and keep this as brief and to the point as possible as I know you'll all be inundated with information and communications from various sources. We'll aim to get this briefing to you every Friday going forward.

I must start on some devastating news by paying tribute to our forensics nurse Khuli Nkala who sadly died from Coronavirus on Friday 17 April. Khuli, who was 46 years old, was a well-respected and selfless professional nurse, who "always put the patient first", and will be greatly missed by his colleagues. He lived in his adopted city of Leeds but was originally born in Zimbabwe.

He joined us in 2015 as a qualified Staff Nurse having worked for many years at Stockton Hall near York, and progressed to Charge Nurse a year later. He also took on a number of extra shifts, both as a member of bank staff with us and with the Cygnet Health Group, and many other colleagues knew him through these networks.



You can [read our full tribute to him here](#).

Communicating our service changes

In order to ensure we can continue to provide our most critical services during the Coronavirus pandemic, we are making some changes to the way we provide some of our community and specialist services.

We have built a page on our website where we have provided a summary of all these changes. You can find it here:

www.leedsandYorkpft.nhs.uk/about-us/changes-services-coronavirus-response

We would encourage you to bookmark this page for future reference should you need to access it quickly.

We will continue to update this page as changes are made, and we'll let you know about any new changes via this new weekly bulletin.

Key changes to highlight

I wanted to highlight a few key changes that we've made over the last two weeks.

We've moved our Learning Disability Inpatient Assessment and Treatment Unit from Parkside Lodge to 3 Woodlands Square on our St Mary's Hospital site.

This allowed us to move the Leeds Perinatal Mental Health Service and regional Mother and Baby Unit into Parkside Lodge on Thursday 9 April.

We've done this so we can convert the Mother and Baby Unit's usual home at The Mount into a physical health ward to barrier nurse some of our older and more vulnerable COVID19 patients. We are currently mobilising this and will update you in due course as the Unit becomes operational.

Full details about how to find and contact the perinatal service are [on our website here](#).

Temporary closure of Learning Disability CMI Respite Service at Woodlands Square

We've taken the difficult decision to temporarily close this service which provides care to adults with complex health needs. The reasons for the decision were to:

- protect this particularly vulnerable service user group from a risk of infection;
- to help manage the reduced staffing availability both on Woodland Square and across the Trust; and,
- So we could redeploy staff with particular physical health skills across the Trust where they were needed.

In addition a number of families had cancelled their respite stay anyway due to their own anxieties and concerns about the Covid 19 situation.

The team manager of the respite service is keeping in touch with all the families of respite users to offer advice and support on a weekly basis.

Positive service user and staff cases

The majority of our service users who've tested positive for Coronavirus have been within our older people's inpatient mental health wards at The Mount, and within our Specialised Supported Living Service – which supports people with learning and physical disabilities in their own homes across Leeds.

These service users are some of the most vulnerable to Coronavirus and we have outstanding staff who are working above and beyond to maintain high quality care. To support all of our priority services we have mobilised staff redeployment to provide cover and again we have seen a great response from staff to work in these areas. Staff training has been refreshed to allow people to work in different areas of the Trust and our infection prevention and control arrangements are constantly reviewed alongside access to PPE.

Very sadly one of our residents in Specialist Supported Living has died and staff are supporting other residents and each other in these very difficult circumstances. Our condolences are with the people closest to him.

Redeployment of staff

As referenced above we are making changes to ensure we can continue to provide our most critical services during the pandemic. At this stage these include our 24/7 inpatient services, supported living houses and urgent access and crisis services.

These changes include redeploying staff from other areas of the Trust to cover shifts or provide extra support where it's needed to ensure we continue to provide safe, reliable and effective care.

So far:

- 86 clinical staff have so far been redeployed with 63 identified for redeployment next week.
- We had 11 third year mental health student nurses start on 20 April, with around 25 coming on board next week.
- It's also important to recognise that our non-clinical colleagues are being redeployed too, and so far around 40 have moved into different roles.
- And . . . we're providing staff to the recently opened Nightingale Hospital in Harrogate. So far nine staff have been redeployed, with three providing nursing support, two providing pharmacy support, and four as part of a staff-focused wellbeing team.

We are truly grateful for the flexibility and dedication of all these amazing staff.

Issued by:

[The LYPFT Communications Team](#)

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