

Coronavirus Response: Stakeholder briefing

From Joanna Forster Adams, Chief Operating Officer

29 May 2020

A welcome from Joanna

Hello everyone,

We're on the other side of another Bank Holiday and I'm pleased to see an improving picture across our Trust, with small numbers of Coronavirus cases on wards and reduced levels of staff absence.



We're working with many of you to plan for how we reset our services and bring teams back to the workplace in a safe and secure way. Thank you for your collaboration and shared commitment as we approach the next stages of this pandemic.

Our current position – an improving picture

Coronavirus cases on our wards

Our position continues to improve in relation to the number of Coronavirus cases on our wards. In the week Thursday 14 May – Wednesday 20 May we tested 29 patients for Coronavirus (these include admissions, discharges and patients with symptoms). Of these, 3 were confirmed to be positive. In the same period, 4 patients recovered having previously tested positive for Covid-19. We're pleased to see small numbers of affected patients, and we're grateful to all our staff who have worked hard to keep our service users safe, and robustly followed national PPE guidance.

Staff health and wellbeing

We're continuing to see fewer staff absences, and we're pleased that many staff and members of their household, who are experiencing symptoms, are quickly accessing the testing opportunities available in the city. We're committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of our teams, and we have a dedicated group of people working together to make sure our staff have the tools and resources they need to stay well, physically and mentally.

We are 99% open for business

Thankfully we've only had to suspend a small number of services during the pandemic, which means the majority of our crisis, inpatient, community and specialist services are very much open for business. We're seeing an increase in referrals into our services, and it's good to see that people are coming to us when they need help and support.

Looking ahead, we're working with colleagues across the city to plan for how we reset services together, whilst maintaining best practice in infection control, and supporting our staff to return to their workplaces safely.

Find out how all our services have adapted to the pandemic on our [service change web page here](#).

Spotlight on: The Annexe at The Becklin Centre

This 10 bedded ward opened on 12 May and is used to care for people with acute mental health problems who have tested positive for Coronavirus upon admission to the mental health unit. By creating a separate unit within the ward for Coronavirus patients, and continuing to follow best practice around infection control, the Trust hopes to reduce the risk of transmission and keep people safe during their stay.

[Read more about The Annexe on our website.](#)

Check out this brilliant tour of the ward, filmed and edited by front line staff – [watch it on Youtube](#).



Leeds Recovery College catch up on Zoom



The team at Leeds Recovery College share their thoughts on week 7 of the lockdown and how they are coping with mental health challenges.

They also talk about Mental Health Awareness Week, the theme of kindness, and how it affects our mental health for the better.

[Watch the video on Youtube.](#)

[Read the latest newsletters and NEW distance learning packs on the website.](#)

Reflections of a Muslim nurse working during Ramadan

Hafsa Sattar, one of our Staff Nurses and a member of our Workforce Race Equality Network, talks about the month of Ramadan and how her faith influences her duties as a nurse.

She writes: “Fasting at work brings its own challenges. Throw a global pandemic into the mix and things get that little bit trickier.

My family are shielding at the moment, so to protect them while I work I have moved out from the family home. This means, as everyone across the UK is experiencing, social gatherings and visiting others isn't possible, and our iftaar meals are no longer a social affair. This has its impacts both culturally and emotionally.”



[Read the full blog on our website.](#)

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