

ADULTS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
11 JANUARY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group	
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NEURO-PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION CONSULTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee comment on the public consultation following the neuro-rehabilitation review at their meeting on 11 January 2022 and the consultation proposal to cease provision of Neuro-Psychological Rehabilitation at the Oliver Zangwill Centre.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Adults and Health Committee following earlier circulation of a consultation process plan and a draft detailing the public consultation.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) provides additional or background information requested by the Committee*
- (b) note the recommendation to cease funding the provision of neuropsychological rehabilitation at the Oliver Zangwill Centre*
- (c) to obtain views on the proposals outlined in the Neuro-rehabilitation consultation document (to follow)*

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

3. Scrutiny of the NHS and NHS providers.

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Oliver Zangwill Centre provides neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation for adults with acquired brain injury. It is an incredibly specialist service, and the only one of its kind currently commissioned by any part of the NHS.

Referrals from the NHS and private providers to the service have been decreasing over a number of years, with a sharper reduction over the last two years.

The service costs around £800,000 pa to provide, and with reducing referrals and several other services that patients can be referred into, the system cannot continue to operate a specialised service in this way.

In this financial year, six patients have been assessed as appropriate for the holistic rehabilitation programme, but these clients have chosen to postpone their treatment for a range of reasons.

A clinically led pathway review of the whole neuro-rehabilitation pathway in 2019, including the Oliver Zangwill Centre (OZC), combined with further reducing patient referrals to this service has resulted in the development of a joint proposal from the CCG and CCS to cease the provision of neuropsychological rehabilitation at the Oliver Zangwill Centre.

In advance of this decision, other avenues to increase referrals were explored, including out of area referrals and insurance funded patients, but despite best efforts the service has continued to see a drop in referrals indicating the service is no longer receiving sufficient referrals to remain viable.

In the current financial year six patients have been assessed as appropriate for the holistic rehabilitation programme work, but the clients have chosen to postpone their treatment for several reasons. 15 further patients continue to receive bespoke care and one patient is on the holistic rehabilitation pathway. As a block funded contract, the service continues to cost the NHS £800,000 per annum despite the lower number of patients cared for. As an indicative representation of the cost per patient per annum, this year the service costs an average of around £50,000 per patient per annum. However, depending on the level of treatment provided, the true cost per patient can vary considerably. As an indication the following applies:

- Assessment £2000 per patient
- Therapy sessions course £1800 per patient
- Therapy programme £34,000 per patient

This is set against a context of a range of other neuro-rehabilitation services funded by the NHS in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough which meet the reasonable needs of our local population.

4.2 **Review outcomes in relation to the Oliver Zangwill Centre (OZC)**

A clinically led pathway review of Community Services took place in 2019. It identified further analysis of the whole neuro-rehabilitation pathway, including the Oliver Zangwill Centre (OZC) was needed.

This further analysis was undertaken in 2020. It considered the cost per course of treatment at the Oliver Zangwill Centre, which at the time was relatively high at an average £16,000 to £18,000 per patient. Historically, OZC attracted out of area and insurance backed patients plus research funding, but in recent years referrals have dropped significantly. It is worth noting that the relative cost per patient per annum has since increased due to lower referral numbers (noting the service is funded via a block contract agreement).

The analysis also showed that the wider neuro-rehabilitation pathway has been expanded over the last few years to include a wider range of services for local people. For example, the countywide community neuro-rehabilitation services run by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) and the Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CUH) specialist neuro-rehabilitation services which provides specialist hyperacute trauma rehabilitation beds prior to transfer to post-acute rehabilitation units depending on the complexity of their needs.

Since this review took place, OZC has continued to see reducing numbers of referrals, and those who are assessed not always taking up their placements. In relation to this among the alternative services the CPFT Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Service has managed 2,192 referrals so far this financial year (April to October).

The Oliver Zangwill Centre offers what is probably a unique community-based NHS neuro-psychological rehabilitation service in the UK. Whilst there is evidence of effectiveness in terms of outcomes, the type of care offered, and the conditions treated are arguably at the boundary of health and social care. In the context of delivering the right healthcare services for our local population within the budget available, we must question the extent to which the local NHS can prioritise funding for this service.

In summary, the OZC offers a service which whilst valued by those who receive it, is a relatively high-cost model that other CCGs do not commission. There is a wide range of alternative options available across the area who have the capacity and resources to support anyone who would previously have been referred to the centre.

4.3 Financial climate

For many years, the NHS in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has faced significant financial challenges that we have been working hard to address. Last year, the system came in on financial plan, and more work is underway to ensure we continue to reduce the deficit.

The cost of this service each year is around £800,000. With reducing referrals over time, and several other services that patients can be referred into, we cannot continue to operate a specialised service in this way.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Public Consultation

The public consultation process is planned to begin on Tuesday 11 January and last for six weeks. Prior to the launch discussions have already taken place with Scrutiny Chairs, whose initial questions have been answered and included in the consultation paper.

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

6.1 As part of the public consultation into the neuro-rehabilitation services the CCG would like to seek the views of this committee.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Consultation documents

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