

Minor Injuries Unit at Congleton Hospital

This report gives the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee an update on the temporary closures at weekends and the plan to continue to do this over this forthcoming winter period.

	1 INTRODUCTION	
This paper provides an update on the ad hoc closure of MIU in Congleton	<p>1.1 Congleton hospital provides a number of services including 28 rehabilitation beds, outpatient facilities, x-ray and a minor Injuries unit (MIU).</p> <p>1.2 East Cheshire NHS trust manages the Congleton Minor Injuries Unit as part of the overall urgent care service which includes the Emergency Department at Macclesfield.</p> <p>1.3 This paper provides an update on the Congleton MIU which was closed on an ad-hoc basis throughout the winter of 2017/18 due to staffing pressures in A&E.</p>	
	2 SERVICE PROVIDED	
<p>The number of patients treated at Congleton is low in comparison to the Macclesfield ED and it is not a 24 hour service</p> <p>Types of conditions treated are described as limb problems, wounds and bites and stings. No patients required admission</p>	<p>2.1 The MIU is planned to be open at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays : 10am – 6pm</p> <p>Weekends: 8:30am – 4:30pm</p> <p>Bank Holidays: 8:30am -4:30pm</p> <p>It is staffed by senior nursing staff – Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENPs).</p> <p>The types of conditions treated at the MIU include burns, cuts, sprains, splinter removal and minor finger dislocations. Some of these can also be treated by primary care and other health care professionals. Most of issues treated (67%) are described as limb problems (sprains/strains minor fractures), with wounds (small lacerations) 14% and bites and stings 5%. Patients would not normally ever require admission to hospital.</p> <p>c. 1,800 patients were treated at the MIU during 2017/18 which compares to c 49,000 patients at the Macclesfield ED.</p> <p>c. 912 patients were treated at the MIU during April to July 2018 which compares to 16306 patients at the Macclesfield ED.</p> <p>On average the unit currently sees 11 patients per day with a range of 4 to 24 per day (based on April to July 2018 data).</p>	
	3 DAILY CLOSURES	
The staff in the MIU have been redeployed to the Macclesfield ED	<p>3.1 During the winter period there was significant pressure on the Macclesfield ED and the trust redeployed staff to where the greatest</p>	

<p>over the 2017-18 winter period to maximise staffing levels to the volumes of patients and whilst the position has improved, this continues to impact weekend provision.</p>	<p>clinical need has been. This has continued to impact the MIU and it is closed each weekend to enable redeployment of staff to the A&E Department.</p> <p>In addition there have continued to be occasions where the nurse at Congleton has been redeployed during weekdays as part of the staffing rostered at the Macclesfield ED but this has been less frequent and on a day by day basis in an attempt to provide as much service as possible to Congleton.</p> <p>The trust continues to communicate with partners and the public (via the website) on a daily basis about closures. Action taken included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlighting the closure on the Trust’s website• Informing NHS 111 so they could divert patients to other solutions• Informing the CCG• Ensuring other internal departments were aware so they could also advise patients <p>The NHS Choices website continues to ask patients to check the trust website before setting off for the MIU.</p> <p>The table below shows the number of days the unit has been closed by month in 2018</p> <table><tr><th>Month</th><th>Days Open</th><th>% of time closed (includes weekend)</th></tr><tr><td>July</td><td>22</td><td>29%</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>21</td><td>30%</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>18</td><td>42%</td></tr><tr><td>April</td><td>20</td><td>33.3%</td></tr><tr><td>March</td><td>12</td><td>61.3%</td></tr><tr><td>February</td><td>13</td><td>53.6%</td></tr><tr><td>January</td><td>2</td><td>93.5%</td></tr></table> <p>The current closures relate largely to weekend closure as the nurse is deployed at the Macclesfield site.</p>	Month	Days Open	% of time closed (includes weekend)	July	22	29%	June	21	30%	May	18	42%	April	20	33.3%	March	12	61.3%	February	13	53.6%	January	2	93.5%
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	<p>4 EXTENDED ACCESS TO GP SERVICE</p>																								
<p>The extended access service commences October 2018 and provides enhanced access to GP services in Congleton and the rest of East Cheshire</p>	<p>4.1 The initial specification (for Oct18-Mar19) for Eastern Cheshire as a whole is for the provision of an additional 104 hours per week of general practice appointments. This increases to an additional 156 hours per week from April 2019 onwards. For the first six months, this equates to an additional 22 hours per week of general practice appointments in Congleton and Holmes Chapel (33 hours per week from April 2019 onwards).</p> <p>Again for the first six months two of the four GP practices (Readesmoor and Holmes Chapel) will provide the service Monday to Thursday (18.21 hours per week) and the central Vernova GP Hub in Macclesfield will provide the service on a Friday evening and at the</p>																								

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		weekend for the whole of Eastern Cheshire. This service will be providing pre-bookable and book-on-the day general practice appointments
	5 SUMMARY	
<p>Continued pressure on the ED at Macclesfield hospital will continue to lead to some unavailability of service at Congleton MIU.</p> <p>The Trust seeks to ensure closure is minimised and should be offset by increased access to GP appointments in the Congleton area from October 2018</p>	5.1	<p>Committee members are asked to note that the pressure on the ED at Macclesfield continues to require the redeployment of nursing staff from Congleton to Macclesfield in line with activity volumes and staffing requirements.</p> <p>Continued staffing challenges during the weekends in Macclesfield is leading to the closure of the MIU and this is expected to continue throughout the forthcoming winter period.</p> <p>Increased access to GP appointments through the 'Extended Access' scheme from October 2018 should mitigate some of the inconvenience to patients due to MIU closures.</p>
Sign Off		<p>Kath Senior</p> <p>Director of Nursing, Performance and Quality</p>

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