

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE OF MEETING:	19 March 2021		
REPORT TITLE:	BHFT Update on Recovery		
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ORGANISATION:	Berkshire Healthcare		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an update on the progress of the Berkshire Healthcare Recovery and Restoration as part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BHFT have a Recovery Strategy that covers all community and mental health services, which sets out the mission, values, principles we are working to and the recovery and restoration process we have agreed. This strategy will be updated to take account of Wave 2 of COVID. We are currently collated the learning from wave 1 and 2 to form 'Standard Work' that will provide the operational framework if needed for further waves.

The reports detail's the impact of COVID on our community and mental health services. In addition, BHFT Estates and IPC (Infection, Prevention Control) team have reviewed and reconfigured all BHFT estate to ensure safe environments for patients and staff. This has resulted in reduced patient 'flow' through some services for face to face appointments. Some of the reduced flow has been minimised by the acceleration of remote appointments for clinically appropriate interventions (e.g. triage, follow up, education etc). And for some services the acceleration of remote consultations has improved waiting times and access. For other services we are seeing an increase in the waiting list numbers. The picture varies across all services.

When restoring services, we followed a Quality Impact Assessment approach that included consideration of the estate, PPE, patient communication, proposed new ways of working and the potential Equality Impacts.

Recovery from Wave 1 was completed in November 2020 with all services operational many offering a 'blended' service office.

We have categorized services as Tier 1 (Critical), Tier 2 (High Priority), Tier 3 (Medium) or Tier 4 (Low). The aim of the categorization is to provide a clear process for redeploying staff if needed from one or more services to support other services as needed. We have currently paused some routine face to face services in Tiers 3 and 4 to divert staff and capacity into our Tier 1 and 2 services to ensure flow/admission avoidance/Home first and capacity are maintained. This process is being led by the Divisions to enable as much flexibility and adaptability as possible.

All urgent and crisis services continue and where routine appointments can be completed remotely this continue.

We anticipate that the Recovery and Restoration process may be able to start again in March. Our recovery process will include consideration of what recovery means for our staff in addition to our services.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 The report is for information only

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 BHFT recovery and restoration complies with all national and local COVID guidance.

4. THE PROPOSAL

Not applicable

5. CONTRIBUTION TO READING'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The BHFT COVID Recovery Strategy does not contribute to any individual Reading Health and Wellbeing priority. It does however directly contribute to the recommendations made in the Berkshire Annual Health Report 2020.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

7. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Berkshire Recovery plan includes a Reducing Health Inequalities due to the impact of COVID-19 action plan.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable