



RCN Policy and International Department
Policy briefing 25/13
August 2013

Briefing on the Trust Special Administration's draft report for the future of services for local people using Stafford and Cannock Chase hospitals

Consultation open: 6th August to 1st October 2013

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Introduction

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has been placed under the control of three Trust Special Administrators:

- Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor
- Alan Bloom
- Alan Hudson

They were appointed on the 16th April 2013. The TSA has produced its proposals for moving from a reportedly unsustainable financial position (costing £20 million more a year than income generated by the Trust¹) to a sustainable position. More details on the Trust, including its locations and services are available here: www.tsa-msft.org.uk

The TSA process will cost in the region of £6.75 million.² This covers a statutory timetable of 120 days plus an agreed extension of 40 days in this case.

The proposals from the TSA

The TSA has proposed that some services that are currently provided at Stafford Hospital will no longer be provided there. These include:

- Some emergency surgery
- Some emergency trauma
- Births
- Neonatal services
- Paediatric inpatients
- Level 3 critical care

No services are to be withdrawn from Cannock Chase.

Many other services will remain and some services will be added and/improved (see below).

¹ <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Consultation-document.pdf>

² <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/faqs/>

Summary of Stafford Hospital services

Services to be provided at Stafford Hospital in the future	Services currently provided at Stafford Hospital which will not be provided in the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14/7 consultant-led A&E • Acute medicine inpatients • Level 2 critical care with Level 3 stabilisation and transfer • Pre- and post-natal care • Surgical and medical day cases • Some urgent minor and trauma procedures • Short stay elective surgery • Outpatients (medical/surgical specialities and paediatrics) • Day case chemotherapy • Renal dialysis* • Diagnostics • 14/7 paediatric assessment unit <p>New or enhanced serviced under the TSAs' draft recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician led rapid access clinics • Step down/rehabilitation beds • Frail and Elderly Assessment service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some emergency surgery • Some emergency trauma • Births • Neonatal services • Paediatric inpatients • Level 3 critical care <p>A large number of services are not currently provided at Stafford Hospital, nor will they be in the future</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major trauma • Some medical conditions – including stroke and heart attack <p>* Services currently provided at Stafford Hospital by other local providers</p>

Source: <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Consultation-document.pdf>

Summary of Cannock Chase Hospital services

Services to be provided at Cannock Chase Hospital in the future	Services currently provided at Cannock Chase Hospital which will not be provided in the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/7 minor injuries unit* • Day case medical procedures • GP led intermediate care beds* • Pre- and post-natal care • Outpatients (medical/surgical specialities) • Diagnostics <p>New or enhanced serviced under the TSAs' draft recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective surgery for some surgical conditions • Day case surgical procedures • Consultant intermediate care beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current services remain
<p>* Services currently provided at Cannock Chase Hospital by other local providers</p>	<p>A large number of services are not currently provided at Cannock Chase Hospital, nor will they be in the future</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E • Acute inpatients • Emergency surgery and trauma • Obstetric or midwife-led births • Paediatrics

Source: <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Consultation-document.pdf>

The TSA has also corrected a mistake in the consultation document. They have highlighted that the Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU) is currently open 24/7 (not 8am to 10pm as stated in the consultation document). The TSA now say that "The draft recommendation is that the PAU should be led by specially trained nurses who will consult with paediatricians and emergency physicians as necessary and that the PAU should only open between the hours of 8am to 10pm every day, to operate the same hours as A&E" (source: <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/addendum-to-consultation-document/>).

The RCN and the TSA

The RCN is supporting members who will be affected, primarily through our West Midlands regional office. Just as in South London Healthcare Trust we are also closely monitoring the application of the unsustainable regime as more Trusts could fail in the future given the tough environment in the NHS and the economy more generally.

The RCN was represented on the MSFT Nurse Clinical Advisory Group, which was established to comment on the clinical safety of the models of services presented to it and also on the implications for the recruitment, retention and professional development of staff.

The RCN wrote to the TSA before the consultation started. We raised concerns about how promptly patients would be able to access urgent, critical and emergency care if these services were provided farther away from the Stafford Hospital site. Mindful of the pressures on emergency care and acute beds, the RCN, in its letter, also sought an assurance that there will be sufficient capacity in acute and community settings elsewhere in the area to cope with any displacement from Stafford.

Read more here:

http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/west_midlands/rcn_responds_to_proposals_for_the_future_of_stafford_hospital

Next steps and tell us what you think

The consultation runs from 6th August to 1st October 2013. You can give your views in different ways:

- Email the RCN via stafford.feedback@rcn.org.uk or call 0345 772 6100. You can read more on what we have already said here: http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/west_midlands/rcn_responds_to_proposals_for_the_future_of_stafford_hospital
- Speak to your RCN representatives at a drop-in surgery in the Critical Care Unit, Stafford Hospital, Weston Road, Stafford ST16 3SA on Friday 13th September 2013. The surgery will be open from 12 noon to 4pm.
- Attend one of the TSA's meetings (see the events calendar on their website here: <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/consultation/events/>) or respond to the consultation directly at <http://tsa-msft.org.uk/consultation/>. If you wish to respond to the consultation directly, please email a copy of your response to stafford.feedback@rcn.org.uk so the RCN can ensure it represents the views of as many members as possible in its formal response.

The TSA will make a final set of recommendations 15 working days after the consultation closes. The Secretary of State has to make a final decision on the proposals and whether they will go forward 50 working days after that.

We are also aware of the High Court Ruling in Lewisham where the Court found that the law did not allow the special administrator to interfere with the workings of other, financially viable, trusts.³ We do not know the implications for the TSA in Mid Staffordshire but would expect this to be worked through by Government and the TSA.

³ http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/london/lewisham_judicial_review