

→ Patients - Mental Health - Kings
Forum 2008 - 2009

Briefing in response to Parliamentary Question from Kate Hoey MP

x [Kate Hoey MP (Vauxhall) To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when the new designated space at King's College Hospital for the former emergency clinic of Maudsley Hospital will be completed. [PQ250308]

Plans to redesign the Emergency Department at Kings College Hospital in order to better accommodate provision for mental health service users are currently out to formal consultation. The consultation began on January 16 2009 and will run to April 10 2009.

The consultation is being jointly undertaken by Southwark and Lambeth PCTs, Kings College Hospital Foundation NHS Trust and South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. The redesign of the Emergency Department was prompted by the closure of the former emergency clinic at the Maudsley Hospital, which took place in 2007. Currently, on average, King's sees 350 patients a day within their Emergency Department, 8 of these are mental health patients, of whom 5 will arrive by ambulance and be treated in resus or majors.

Mental health patients can require treatment in all the different areas of the Emergency Department, minors, majors, paediatrics and resus. Therefore, mental health services need to be integrated into the department and the design does not feature a single designated space for mental health users, but rather a number of new, quiet, private and secure treatment and waiting spaces across the different areas of the department, which will be used for the assessment and treatment of mental health patients. The increased number – a total of 17 separate areas are listed in the proposals for consultation – and will allow those patients with mental health needs to be treated in a calm environment and in a way which helps to reduce anxiety and stress.

Another key feature of the redesign will be to change the process for registering and triaging patients on arrival at ED. Patients will be greeted by a senior nurse and have their needs assessed immediately on arrival. Patients presenting with psychiatric needs will be routed to the Psychiatric Liaison team immediately, and the PLN team will be located within the ED in future. This has started to be piloted this week and early indications are that it has been very well received with patients.

The timescale for the redevelopment has not yet been finalised, as the final shape of the redevelopment will need to be determined following the outcome of the consultation. The emergency department and other key stakeholders such as GPs and London Ambulance staff will start work on detailed designs for the clinical areas after the consultation is complete. The user reference group will also be involved in this planning.

It is hoped that enabling work for the build will commence towards April 2009 with full building work commencing in the second quarter of 2010.

PROPOSED LAYOUT

