

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGING ACUTE INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS OF WORKING AGE

Health and care services in Somerset are running a public consultation to gather feedback from local people about the future locations of acute mental health beds for people of working age. The consultation runs until 12 April 2020.

An acute mental health ward is where patients are admitted to provide them with the level of treatment and support they need. This might be because they need further assessment, they need to be kept safe or they need more intensive support than can be provided at home.

Health and care services are considering changing the location of the acute mental health ward at Wells for people aged between 18 and 65 years and moving it to Yeovil. The number of beds will remain the same.

The reason for the proposed change is due to concerns about patients and staff safety. Two of the four wards for people aged between 18 and 65 years are located in Taunton, with one ward in both Yeovil and Wells. These two are 'standalone' wards which means they are not close to other wards, and one of them is also a long way from the nearest Emergency Department.

All other existing services at Priory Health Park in Wells will remain, whatever the outcome of the consultation, and community mental health services available to people in the Wells/Mendip area will be expanded and enhanced: this includes a Crisis Café.

Health and care services would like to know what you think about their ideas. You can fill in the questionnaire here:

<http://bit.ly/FFMF-Mental-Health-Consultation>

You can read the full consultation document on their website at www.fitformyfuture.org.uk [1] or contact them by email somccg.fitformyfuture@nhs.net or telephone 01935 384119