

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Health Scrutiny Committee
Date: 20/06/2022
Report for: Information
Report of: Naomi Ledwith – Director of Commissioning

Report Title

Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit – Stakeholder Briefing

Summary

This document outlines the update and Stakeholder Briefing in relation to the Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit. The Briefing outlined in Appendices of this document details the current position of the Minor Injuries Unit and the workforce challenges faced by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. These workforce challenges are restricting the delivery of services on the Altrincham Site as a result of supporting wider challenges across both the Trafford General Hospital Urgent Treatment Centre and the Wythenshawe Hospital Emergency Department and ensuring both of those services remain clinically safe.

Recommendation(s)

1. Note the information contained within this document in relation to the ongoing challenges in relation to workforce within the Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Appendices



Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit Stakeholder briefing – June 2022

Dear colleague,

Following the briefing note shared with you in November 2021 regarding the decision to temporarily suspend the Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), we have subsequently agreed with NHS Trafford CCG that this temporary suspension of service will remain in place with a review of options being concluded in August 2022.

Why is this decision being taken?

While we have been trying very hard to attract Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENPs) to the service, there is a national challenge in recruiting to these posts. At the same time, we continue to care for significant numbers of patients who are COVID-19 positive, and face higher than usual staff absences associated with the ongoing management of the pandemic. This means that we are having to focus the time of our ENPs at the Urgent Treatment Centre at Trafford General Hospital and the Emergency Department at Wythenshawe Hospital given that these departments receive the most acutely unwell patients. This has ensured that these two key services remain both clinically safe and accessible to the population across Trafford and beyond.

What happens next?

We will continue with our ENP recruitment attempts but we require options in the event that we do not succeed with this. We have therefore started a detailed options appraisal, with a view to ensuring that we can maintain services for patients which are safe and sustainable.

Once this options appraisal is complete, we will discuss the next steps with NHS commissioning and local authority colleagues. We will, of course, update you at that stage.

We are also actively considering which services can be provided from Altrincham Hospital without having to rely on Emergency Nurse Practitioners. As we previously advised, outpatient services continue to be provided from Altrincham Hospital, and are unaffected by this situation.

Kind regards,
Darren Banks
Group Director of Strategy