Consultation

Asking you

About changing learning disability and autism services in the North West
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People with a learning disability and/or autism have the same rights as anyone else. They should have a home in the community of their choice.

People with a learning disability and/or autism sometimes stay in hospital for different reasons.

Sometimes they do not have the right support in the community. Sometimes they have a mental health condition that needs treatment in hospital.

We think services need to change to meet the needs of people. They should be closer to home and provide good quality care. Some big hospitals should close.
There was a national plan in October 2015 called ‘Building the right support’. This is to make community support better.

If we get community support right less people would have to be in hospital. When people do need care they should only go into hospital if it is really needed.

This consultation is about what should happen to the hospital that was called Calderstones. Now it is called Specialist Learning Disability Division at Mersey Care Whalley.
Why do things need to change?

More people with a learning disability and/or autism should move out of hospital. They should live in the community.

People will be supported to choose where they want to live. They should also be involved in agreeing what support they need.

There will be less people in secure units. There will be more places for people to be supported in the community instead. This will take 3 years to do in the North West of England.

Calderstones’ new name is Specialist Learning Disability Division at Mersey Care Whalley. It changed on 1st July 2016. This is the only NHS hospital left for people with a learning disability in England.
The hospital is mainly a forensic service. This means people have been sent here by the police or a court. They live in locked (secure) flats or houses in the hospital. Some people living here have behaviours that are seen as very risky.

Staff in the hospital help everyone to get ready to move back into the community.

In the North West we are finding new places outside of the hospital. This is where people with a learning disability and/or autism can live.

Things will also change for staff who work at Mersey Care Whalley. Staff are talking to managers a lot about the changes.
Ideas to talk about…

We think people with a learning disability and/or autism should be able to live in the community.

They should not need to live in hospital.

More information can be found at:


You can find out more about this in the leaflet called ‘Time for Change’

This can be found here:

These changes mean many people will not stay so long in hospital. This means they will get the best treatment.

New hospitals or units will be up to date and will fit each person’s needs.

There will not be so many hospital places for people. This is because there will be smaller places nearer to people’s homes.

There will be more staff to help with this. This may cost more to start with.

The new services are called low secure services. These are for people who need to be in hospital. These new services will be for:

- Women’s services for women only
- People with autism and/or a learning disability
- People who need to be in hospital for a longer time or
- People who need to be in hospital for a shorter time
These are the options

OPTION 1 – close the hospital site completely

What is good about this option?

- People would have more choice in their pathway of care with fair access to services
- People would be able to live in a community setting
- People would still get care and treatment
- People would get health services that keep them healthy and well. People would have access to hospital when needed
- People who lack capacity to choose their own services will be able to use the same services as everyone else
- People would be provided with the same choices of specialist services

This is the option that NHS England thinks is best.
OPTION TWO – keep the newer buildings on the site with up to date services

What is good about this option?

- Some of the buildings are not very old. They could still be used
- Money could be saved
- Staff who work there could stay

This is not the option we would choose

This is because it is in the countryside a long way from towns and communities.
Medium secure services - what are they?

These are the new services for people who need to stay in a safe place. This is so they cannot harm themselves or other people.

This is a picture of the new building for medium secure services. It is being built at Maghull which is in Merseyside.

Mersey Care will run this service. Some people with a learning disability and/or autism who are at Whalley may move here.

People will be safe and services will work to help people. They will be treated the same as everyone else. If the services at Mersey Care Whalley close completely patients needing medium secure care will move to Maghull.
Services not on the Whalley Site

What are they?

There are some houses on the main road outside of the main hospital where people with a learning disability are supported for a long time. These are not included in the consultation.

These houses are being considered with each individual so that people are given the right to community care.

Better homes with support and activities may need to be found.
How much will it cost?

We have thought about how to sort out the money for the next 3 years to help people move on from hospital.

We will pay for Mersey Care Whalley to keep going for 3 years. At the same time we will pay for people to move into the community. The new services will be opening up.

We will also pay for extra things needed to make this change.

**OPTION ONE – close the hospital site completely**

Money will be needed to pay for the new services.

**OPTION TWO – keep the newer buildings on the site with up to date services**

Money will be needed to change the buildings already at Whalley.
What do you think?

Please tell us what you think of these ideas and options

1. Do you think people with a learning disability and/or autism should be supported in their community?

2. Some people have to live in locked places because of the Mental Health Act. What should these locked places be like?

3. Do you think people should stay in the community and only go into hospital when there is no other choice?
4. What do you think about the two options?

Option 1 –

Option 2 –

Do you have any other ideas or anything else you want to say?

What happens next?

Please give us your feedback before 23 February 2017

Please give your comments to a member of staff or send your form to:
Oak House| Moorhead Way| Bramley|
Rotherham|South Yorkshire | S66 1YY
We will use all the feedback to write a report.

We will put it on the NHS England website for everyone to see.

When the decision is made we will tell everyone.  

Thank you