Dear colleagues,

Between now and March next year, a whole range of improvement works will take place across the Trust’s Estate.

At St Mary’s Hospital, we’ve already started work to create a bright new discharge lounge and Out-Patient and Home Parenteral Infusion Therapy area on Level C. Further improvements will include the Trust’s first dementia friendly wards, as well as an extension to the Medical Assessment Unit and the co-location of the Intensive Care and Coronary Care units onto one site. With any building work comes a certain level of disruption, but I hope that you will report any concerns to the Project Team so that we can work together to make these exciting developments a success. You can find out how to contact them in the Q&A section.

Rob Graham, the Trust’s Capital Planning and Development Manager said: “This phase of work is due to be finished by 22 April, and we’re planning to relocate OHPiT and discharge lounge on 25 April. Once that’s completed, we’ll be doing some work in the main ward area; we’ll be installing additional ensuite shower rooms for patients in the multi-bed wards. This is to ensure we continue to comply with privacy and dignity guidelines, and improve our single-sex accommodation.”

As you can see from the pictures above, work is progressing well to create the new environment and we’ll bring you more updates soon.

Karen Baker
Chief Executive

Level C: Work progressing well

With the freeing up of space on Level C, a new discharge lounge and OHPiT (Out-Patient and Home Parenteral Infusion Therapy) area is being created.

Spring time at the Isle of Wight NHS Trust
The Island’s first dementia friendly wards

Appley and Colwell Wards are to become the first dementia friendly wards at St. Mary’s Hospital site. The works will take six weeks to complete in each area and will begin in Appley Ward on 7 April.

Capital Planning & Development Manager, Rob Graham, said: “The organisation received some government funding to make the facility dementia friendly, and this involves flooring, decoration, signage and lighting. It’s the first time we’ve done this, but we’ve developed a style guide with an external agency and we’ll be looking to roll this out in areas where we need to over the coming years.”

Appley ward will be decanted for six weeks, after which clinical cleaning will take place for one week before the ward space is re-occupied. Colwell Ward will then undergo the same refurbishments to make it dementia-friendly. When that work is completed, the Medical Assessment Unit will temporarily occupy Appley ward to allow for the next phase of the project to get underway.

Distinctive design to help our dementia patients

The Appley and Colwell ward improvements came about thanks to a successful bid for funding by the Trust’s Memory Service to the Department of Health’s Dementia Friendly project.

According to the consultants for the project, doors which will be used routinely by patients need to be easy to recognize and use – and distinct from ‘other’ doors.

This is achieved by the careful selection of bright colour-coded doors to patient areas to make a door more noticeable or memorable. There must be a good contrast between the door, architrave and wall, and clearly visible and easy-to-operate door handles.

Deliberately making doors to staff only areas blend in with the surrounding area will help ensure only doors to patient areas stand out. This can be done by painting doors to staff only rooms in a similar colour to the adjacent walls.
Major makeover for our Medical Assessment Unit

The most major improvement works over the next few months will be to the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU), as Rob Graham explains: “The MAU works include a full internal reconfiguration and upgrade, as well as two single-storey extensions, one in the internal courtyard and the other at the back of the unit. It will be completely new.”

The work will transform the current rather cramped accommodation, which lacks storage areas, and is often described as “rather tired looking”. It will also help us to modernise our assessment area to ensure early assessment of all our emergency patients in the future in one place. This will provide an opportunity to have staff from a variety of specialties working alongside each other to ensure patient needs are met.

Rob said: “This project involves a complete reconfiguration of existing space as well as new extensions; it improves the level of accommodation and provides a new out-patient assessment area. It’s key to helping the organisation to keep patients out of hospital; they’re assessed in MAU and can sometimes be better cared for at home or in a care setting that avoids the need to be admitted into hospital.”

Once MAU moves into its new area, Appley ward can return to normal but with its new dementia friendly status.

About the Medical Assessment Unit

The Medical Assessment Unit manages the flow of emergency medical admissions into St Mary’s Hospital. The Unit takes referrals from the Emergency Department, General Practice and from Outpatient clinics.

Patients attending the unit can expect full nursing and medical assessments of their physical and healthcare needs. Treatment options will be discussed and initiated within this area with a plan that either allows them to return home or be admitted to an appropriate medical ward.

The Unit is managed by a clinical and nursing team consisting of medical consultants, a ward sister and senior staff and supported by a whole range of healthcare professionals.
Floor plan showing the new layout for our Medical Assessment Unit
Co-locating our most critically ill patients

Putting together our most critically ill patients onto one site, where they can be cared for by clinicians sharing the same workspace, will lead to benefits to both patients and staff. The next stage of our hospital improvement works will see the Intensive Care Unit and Coronary Care Unit co-located.

To enable the works to proceed we’re going to need to temporarily relocate CCU from the ground floor to the first floor, into the 15-bed former Newchurch ward. Once Coronary Care has moved upstairs we will start the works to the ground floor and those works will complete at the end of February 2015.

Once it’s complete, we’ll have a combined ICU and CCU unit. There are massive clinical benefits for this, and one of the benefits for us as an organisation is that we’re making much better use of our space. Of course, on completion of the merger, we free up the existing ICU for a new Endoscopy Unit which was given approval at the March Trust Board meeting.
Floor plan showing the new layout for the combined Intensive and Coronary Care units
Your questions answered

How are we paying for these improvements?
Funds for this work are coming from the Trust’s Capital Programme. This is funding that is ring fenced for new equipment and facilities and that means it can’t be used for things like more nurses, it has to be invested into our assets.

Will there be lots of noise and disruption?
We will do our best to keep noise and disruption to a minimum during the improvement works. Our contractors, Kier, are approved by the Department of Health and are very experienced in working in hospitals. They are committed to thoroughly cleaning areas as they go, and before they are handed over to staff.

Who can I speak to if I have concerns?
In the first instance, staff should speak with their Line Manager about how the changes will affect their immediate area.

There is also a Project Team in place overseeing the works, who are meeting regularly to discuss any issues as the project progresses. The improvement works are being managed by Rob Graham and the Capital Projects Team within the Estate Management Department. You can contact them on (01983) 822099 ext 6709.

The Project Manager overseeing the operational changes linked to the improvement works is Sarah Cooke and she can be reached on (01983) 822099 ext 5614 or via email sarah.cooke@iow.nhs.uk

How will I keep up-to-date with the latest news?
The Project Team will be holding regular sessions to brief key staff, which they will then be asked to cascade to their teams. We will also produce both electronic and printed newsletters to provide an overview of the project as it develops.

How will patients be affected?
We have taken account of feedback from patients during previous refurbishments, and wards where building or redecoration work is being undertaken will be closed to patients for the duration of the refurbishments. This means that we will use other suitable areas of the hospital to treat patients during the works, to ensure they are not disturbed or affected.

We would like to thank patients for their understanding and support during the refurbishments. If there are any concerns, please do raise them with staff and you can also contact the Quality Team by calling (01983) 534850.
Our better hospital

We are embarking on an ambitious programme of improvement works at St Mary’s Hospital which will support our Trust’s vision of “Quality Care, Everyone, Every Time”

Level C improvements

We’ve already started work on making improvements on Level C at St Mary’s Hospital. A bright and spacious new discharge lounge and OHPIT area are being created. This phase of work is due to be completed by 22 April, with relocation of OHPIT and discharge lounge on 25 April.

April 2014

Dementia Friendly Wards

Starting in April, we are undertaking improvement works to Colwell and Appley wards to create our first ever “Dementia Friendly” wards. We estimate this work will take around three months to complete.

June 2014

Bringing together our critical care services

During summer 2014, work will start to bring our two critical care services - Intensive Care and Coronary Care - together, so we can better care for these specialist cases on one site. We expect this work to be completed by February next year.

February 2015

Medical Assessment Unit

Once we have completed our Dementia friendly wards, we can then begin work on improving our Medical Assessment Unit. As well as creating a better environment for our patients, the unit will also be extended so we will have more space in between beds to help control the risk of infection. We expect this work to be completed by March 2015.

March 2015