

HEALTHY WESTON +

Factsheet: temporary overnight closure of Weston Hospital's A&E

Further detail on the public consultation proposals



May 2019

This factsheet provides more information about the temporary overnight closure of Weston Hospital's A&E department in July 2017.

Why was Weston Hospital's A&E closed overnight?

A Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection and subsequent report published on 14 June 2017 identified a number of safety and quality issues with the A&E department, especially at night. The inspection found issues with staffing, patient flow through the hospital and 'medical infrastructure'.

As a result, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG), the NHS organisation responsible for planning and paying for local services, developed a plan to temporarily close the A&E department overnight at the hospital.

The decision was taken to temporarily close A&E overnight from 10pm to 8am from 4 July 2017 to help the hospital focus on delivering high quality services during the day, when the hospital saw the majority of attendances in A&E. The hospital found it harder to safely staff the hospital during the nighttime.

As a result of the CQC report, changing the opening hours for A&E during the temporary closure allowed the hospital to improve the service which led to the subsequent lifting of the warning notice it was given by the CQC.

How has the impact of the temporary closure been monitored?

- Daily meetings between local NHS organisations including local hospitals, the ambulance service, local councils and community organisations to monitor patient safety across the whole of the region monitor if the temporary closure was impacting on patient safety.
- Meetings between clinical and operational groups to oversee the management of the temporary closure and deal with any issues accordingly.
- This included reviewing and managing any risks in the operational contingency and implementation plan.



How has the impact of the temporary closure been monitored?

- A clinical audit by the ambulance service of patients conveyed to University Hospital Bristol found that there were no adverse clinical outcomes as a result of the additional journey time to neighbouring hospitals.
- The actual impact on patient care was reviewed after six months in January 2018 and again after 12 months in July 2018.
- An average of an additional 9-13 patients a night are being seen at either the Bristol Royal Infirmary, Southmead Hospital in Bristol or Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton.
- There has been no deterioration in patient safety at neighbouring hospitals or for people cared for at Weston Hospital.
- Visits made by health professionals from BNSSG CCG specifically to review the quality of services also found no deterioration in patient safety.
- There was no change in how well neighbouring hospitals met national NHS targets for seeing and assessing people within four hours of arrival in A&E during the temporary overnight closure.
- There were no incidents categorized as 'serious un-toward' or any that resulted in patient harm.

Telephone: 0117 900 2655

Email: bnssg.healthyweston.enquiries@nhs.net

Website: www.bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/healthyweston

Twitter: @BNSSG_CCG @WestonNHS #HealthyWeston

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BNSSGCCG/

