



Press Release

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Macarthur Centre opens to fill gap in mental health services in the Black Country

Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust is pleased to announce the launch of the Macarthur Centre, a High Dependency Rehabilitation service, at Heath Lane Hospital in West Bromwich. The Centre, which represents £3.7 million of investment, will be ready to receive patients on the 1st December.

The Macarthur Centre fills a serious gap in services for vulnerable people living in the Black Country with significant mental health problems. Currently people have to be moved outside of the area for this type of treatment, sometimes as far away as London or Cheshire. This means they get taken away from their familiar surroundings and get cut off from their family and friends, which slows down their recovery.

The Macarthur Centre will provide rehabilitation for people with serious and long-term mental health problems, such as bipolar disorder, whose life skills are significantly affected by their illness. Patients will receive a range of treatments and therapies such as psychiatry, psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The service will build up their social and life skills so they can return home to live independently.

The centre has 12 single bedrooms and offers en-suite accommodation with light and spacious living areas and activity rooms. It will provide a safe and therapeutic environment for people to recover their mental health and wellbeing. Construction started in January of this year and the building was handed over to the Trust by the construction company Kier Moss on schedule on the 1st November.

Twenty-eight new jobs have been created at the Centre including roles such as nurses, rehabilitation assistants, physiotherapist, speech and language therapist, physical instructor, occupational therapists, receptionists and a consultant psychiatrist.

The Centre has been named after Mary Macarthur, the Black Country social reformer, whose centenary is celebrated this year. The Centre continues Mary's work of raising aspirations for people in the area and supporting their welfare. Mary's grand-daughters will officially open the Centre at the launch event on the 29th November.

Karen Dowman, Chief Executive of the Trust, said:

"We are proud to be launching such a crucial service for people in the Black Country with long-term mental health issues. The Macarthur Centre is a state-of-the-art building, where people can build up their self-confidence and develop their everyday life skills. It will provide care closer to home for vulnerable people, so they can make a full recovery and move back to living independently when they are ready".

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (SMHFT) is the major provider of mental health and specialist learning disabilities services to people of all ages in Sandwell. The Trust has three hospital sites

in West Bromwich: Heath Lane Hospital, Edward Street Hospital and Hallam Street Hospital. It also provides a broad range of services in the community.

£2.5 million of investment for the High Dependency Rehabilitation Unit was made possible through the Trust's Foundation Trust status which allows for greater flexibility to invest in local services. Additional funding (£1.2 million) for the unit has come from the Department of Health in recognition of the need for this important service.

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