



Recruitment

# Working for adult mental health services

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Website: [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

## About us

We provide specialist mental health services for adults (between 18 and 65 years) across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire both in inpatient and community settings. We provide care to people with forensic mental health needs (people who require their care in a secure setting) and disadvantaged and hard-to-reach groups of adults (for example substance misusers and offenders) who find it hard to access mainstream primary and community services and need more specialised input and support before moving towards mainstream services.

## Adult inpatient services

We provide inpatient services across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. For some patients this may be a brief stay for intensive treatment and support, whilst others - who suffer from severe and enduring mental illness, may require more frequent admissions.

The wards offer a multidisciplinary approach to the provision of care. The interventions include: talking therapies, medical input, social skills training, as well as assessment of needs and medication.

Following an inpatient admission support and advice is also available to carers and relatives. The team will liaise with the voluntary sector, and social and community services, as well as primary care as appropriate.

These services form part of the adult patient pathway and work in conjunction with our community mental health teams and early intervention services.

## **Acute inpatient services (acute admission wards)**

These services provide care for adults who are in acute mental distress who cannot be cared for at home. Our wards work closely with our community mental health teams in order to promote discharge as quickly as possible.

## **Inpatient rehabilitation services**

These services provide a range of treatments and therapeutic interventions for adults with enduring mental illness who require rehabilitation.

A variety of skilled therapeutic rehabilitation and leisure activities take place, the focus being on everyday activities and those promoting the acquisition of skills. We work collaboratively with service users to promote social inclusion and optimum independence.

## **Psychiatric intensive care units (PICUs)**

Our PICUs provide assessment and active, intensive and comprehensive multidisciplinary treatment for individuals whose behaviour demands a level of observation and care beyond that which can be provided on an acute admission ward.

## **Community adult mental health teams**

We provide core mental health services in the community across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to adults with mental health problems. These problems can range from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, post-natal depression and other depressive disorders, to enduring anxiety and personality disorders.

The community teams are a fully integrated service that delivers both assessment and treatment functions to patients seven days a week. This allows our patients to have greater accessibility to our services.

Our teams are made up of a number of different staff including: psychiatrists, psychologists, community psychiatric nurses (CPNs), approved social workers, occupation therapists and support workers.

We give individuals the support they need to continue a full and active life in the community and work closely with GPs, service users and carers, and other key partners to achieve this.

## Forensic inpatient services

Our forensic services provide accommodation, support and treatment for individuals who have been diagnosed with severe mental health problems and are considered to pose a risk to the public.

We are the provider of secure services for Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. We provide a full range of inpatient services across this area including:

- two medium secure units
- two low secure units
- a secure unit for women
- an open pre-discharge facility

# Forensic community mental health teams

Our community teams provide specialist psychological and psychiatric interventions to assess, treat and manage individuals who, as a consequence of mental illness or personality disorder, have offended, or present a potential to offend and therefore pose a risk to themselves or others.

The aim of the intervention is to maintain and improve the mental health and quality of life of service users as well as manage the risk of violence or re-offending. For the majority of service users, the aim will be to eventually transfer them to local community teams or their GP where appropriate.

## Locations

Our services are based at various locations throughout Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. An overview of our main sites can be found below.

### **Warneford Hospital, Oxford**

The Warneford Hospital opened as the Oxford Lunatic Asylum in July 1826. It was subsequently named the Radcliffe Lunatic Asylum and then the Warneford Lunatic Asylum. The hospital aimed to recreate the atmosphere of a gentleman's country house and was specifically for the accommodation of mental patients belonging to the educated classes.





Within the Warneford Hospital there are three wards, an inpatient eating disorder ward, an adolescent unit and outpatient services. This is also the base for the trust's psychological services as well as the research and development team.

### **Littlemore Mental Health Centre, Oxfordshire**

Littlemore Hospital was opened in 1846 for mental patients who belonged to the lower classes of society. This building was unsuitable for modern mental health and closed in 1996, with the services housed there moving to the purpose-built Littlemore Mental Health Centre on the opposite side of the road.



Within the centre there is an acute admission ward, a psychiatric intensive care unit, medium secure and low secure units as well as open pre-discharge unit.

This is also the base for the trust's learning and development centre, IT services and occupational health.

## The Whiteleaf Centre, Aylesbury



The Whiteleaf Centre opened its doors to patients in February 2014. It is a purpose-built facility for the treatment of people with mental health problems. The centre has been built to a high specification for patient safety and dignity. It is a pleasant environment with artwork incorporated into the design throughout.

Within the centre there are four wards, a day hospital, many consulting rooms for outpatients and individual and group therapy sessions, a resource centre and facilities for staff and visitors.

With its neighbouring trust facilities, the Sue Nicholls Centre and Woodlands, it forms the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Campus.

## Marlborough House, Milton Keynes

Marlborough House is a medium secure forensic inpatient unit based on the site of Milton Keynes General Hospital. It comprises an acute admissions ward, an intensive care unit and a ward for individuals who are progressing well in their recovery but still require medium secure services.

## Why choose to work in adult mental health services?

We look to recruit individuals who embody our values and share a true desire to put service users at the heart of everything they do.

We pride ourselves not only on the provision of high quality, evidence-based care to all our patients, but also on the development and investment in our staff too. We offer innovative learning and development opportunities which help you to develop within an environment that is both challenging and supportive.

We provide access to a wide range of development opportunities to reflect the needs of our services, including clinical and professional development, vocational qualifications and leadership and management development.

You will receive an annual personal review and development plan to support your career progression. You will be encouraged to extend your range of skills and knowledge and take on new responsibilities through the career framework.

### **Are you a newly qualified nurse?**

We are keen to support the employment and development of newly qualified nurses, and have developed bespoke preceptorship programmes to provide you with dedicated support and mentoring in your first year.

When you start with the trust you will be allocated a preceptor who will work with you to understand and achieve the competencies required of you in your new role.

We are firmly committed to the belief that by investing in your success and development you will ensure that throughout your career with us our patients will continue to receive high quality care.

We also believe that support should come from a variety of sources, so if you are working in one of our adult inpatient units you will be invited to participate in a preceptorship group.

This has many purposes, but it is hoped that the preceptees will be able to:

- access peer support.
- have an opportunity to work with other newly qualified staff in critically evaluating their services and working together to improve all aspects of patient care.
- access to the senior and experienced staff working within the inpatient services who will support your professional practice development.
- maintain your wellbeing through the use of facilitated supervision and reflective practice.

### **Amy's story**

I relocated from the North East of England last summer (July 2013) to move where my partner had been working for two years.

When I started applying for jobs I didn't know much about Aylesbury, but I applied to work on a female ward there, as I wanted to work in a female acute environment. After being interviewed, getting the job and finishing university, I moved down to Oxfordshire to begin my nursing career.

When I got the job I knew I would have to commute from Oxfordshire to fit in with my partner's work commitments, but I chose to do this once I had been shown around the ward by Christine the ward manager and meeting some of the team on my visit. When I moved down, I was not only unfamiliar with the area, but also Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Eight months later and I am feeling very happy in my nursing role and am settled in the new area. I have been well supported by my team from day one of starting my job.

The trust provides a good, well-structured induction training programme, which I attended in my second week of working there. It helped my understanding of the trust and to feel assured in myself and in my new role.

Throughout the eight months, I have been faced with many challenges which I knew I would have to face. Some challenges have been tougher than others. I continue to ask questions and learn new things on a daily basis.

As I reflect, I feel my personal confidence and competence has developed with the help and support of my fellow colleagues. I have developed my self-awareness, and awareness of others and their needs, allowing me to implement safe and successful nursing practice.

As a result of my experience, I have become truly committed to working on Ruby Ward and have just bought a house in Oxfordshire.

*Amy - Preceptee on Ruby Ward, Whiteleaf Centre, Aylesbury*

## What our staff say about working for us

I have had the opportunity to participate in numerous training courses across the spectrum of mental health, which has assisted me to better understand and support my clients.

Healthcare professionals have an opportunity to make a real difference to people's lives by drawing on their skills and expertise. The opportunity to engage with people on such a meaningful level is the most satisfactory part of my job, followed by the sense that I bring a degree of specialist expertise to patient care.  
*Acute admission ward*

I love the autonomy of my job and the opportunity to think on my feet. I enjoy the varied caseload I have and the individuality of each client. I love that no two days are the same and the journey that I see my clients go on hopefully to happy and healthier times.  
*Community adult mental health team*

Whatever our position of employment, we are only here because of the people who need our service. From what I can see, the trust has not lost sight of this – it retains a very patient-centred perspective and is willing to invest in staff in order to provide the best possible service to the community that it serves.  
*Community adult mental health team*

Since becoming an employee of the trust, I have been able to develop my career by learning new skills almost on a daily basis and drawing on the wealth of experience in my team.  
*Acute admission ward*

## What our service users and carers say about our services

Great staff, very motivational, realistic and helpful with my issues. Thank you, you have helped me on my path to a better life.  
*Harm Minimisation Service*

Staff have been absolutely fantastic with the care and support that they have provided our daughter with so far. You have kept her safe and been so understanding towards her. We are really impressed with you all.

*Acute admission ward*

I finally feel like I can see a light at the end of the tunnel.

*Psychiatric intensive care unit*

The work they do is vital to the health and wellbeing of individuals and it is through their help and support that I have been able to regain my health and find hope for the future.

*Early Intervention Service*

You can see the passion the team has for their patients.

*Luther Street Medical Centre*

## How to apply

If you would like to come and be part of an innovative, forward-looking organisation then we look forward to hearing from you soon.

A list of all our current vacancies can be found on our website: [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk) under the 'working for us' section and following the current vacancy link.

Each job will have a name and number listed for someone that you can speak to to find out more information.

# Notes

If you need the information in another language or format please ask us

Nëse ky informacion ju nevojitet në një gjuhë apo format tjetër, ju lutem na kontaktoni

আপনি যদি এই তথ্যাদি অন্য কোন ভাষায় বা মাধ্যমে (ফরম্যাট) পেতে চান  
তবে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন

જો તમને આ માહિતી બીજી ભાષામાં અથવા બીજા આકારમાં જોઈએ, તો કૃપા કરીને અમને પૂછો

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若您需要本信息的另一种语言或格式的版本文本，请与我们联系

नेवत कुवतुं टित नान्दवती विसी सुनी ब्रामा नं नवल विस चारीसी वहे उं वितथा वर वे सतुं पुहो

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