

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

**BOD 12/2023**

(Agenda item: 3)

# Board of Directors

29th March 2023

**Name of service**

Specialised Services – Forensic Mental Health

**For: Information**

**Summary of the story**

From a young age Ben was involved in anti social behaviour and crimes such as stealing cars and robbery. This went on for many years until he eventually went to prison. Concerns were raised about Ben’s mental health so he was transferred to Marlborough House, part of the Oxford Health Forensic Mental Health service.

While there he did not engage well with the service and was involved with a lot of violent and disruptive behaviour. This eventually resulted in transfer to Broadmoor Hospital, a high security mental health hospital.

In Broadmoor Ben was formally diagnosed with schizophrenia and was started on Clozapine, an antipsychotic medication. This had a dramatically positive effect on Ben and for the first time ever he began to properly engage with therapy and psychology.

After making good progress he was transferred back to medium secure services and two years ago discharged into the community, where he is supported by the Forensic Community Mental Health Team.

Ben volunteers as a support worker for vulnerable adults at his local Winter Night Shelter, he works with the Care Quality Commission and is just starting to train as a Samaritan.

***About the service***

The Thames Valley Forensic Mental Health service consists of ten inpatient wards which include medium and low secure wards for men, women and people with learning disabilities. There is also a Forensic Community Mental Health Team which covers Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and parts of Berkshire.

Recently the service acquired the contract for providing mental health services in local prisons – Bullingdon, Huntercombe, Grendon & Springhill.

***About the service users***

Men and women enter the service when there are concerns about both mental health needs and levels of risk to self and others. All our inpatients are detained under the Mental Health Act, and most are under “forensic” sections which require the involvement of the Ministry of Justice. It is common for admissions to be over long periods of time and are often as an alternative to prison.

Whilst our wards have restricted access our aim is to look after people with as few restrictions as possible and help people to recover and return back to the community in a safe and supported way.