

Townlands Hospital is a multi-disciplinary 'health campus' on the site of the former 14-bed hospital of the same name in Henley-on-Thames.

Background

Work on re-developing the site began in 2014. The original proposal comprised the provision of outpatient and diagnostic services such as physiotherapy and x-ray and the introduction of a new 'ambulatory' (literally outpatient or non bed-based) care model, the Rapid Access Care Unit (also known as the RACU).

Rapid Access Care Unit

The RACU unit will provide a next-day service led by a consultant and a team of health and social care professionals including community nurses, physiotherapy and occupational therapy practitioners, social care staff, mental health staff and hospital clinicians. The service is planned to be open seven days a week (8am-8pm) with consultant-led clinics Monday to Saturday mornings.

The RACU will provide assessment and treatment of patients with a crisis or deterioration in their health or long term condition - including patients with complex medical, social and/or mental health needs. The service will offer a next day clinic so that patients could be assessed by a consultant and then, if needed could receive diagnostic tests or treatments such as blood transfusions and intravenous antibiotics all on the same day. While the outpatient services at Townlands opened during the Spring of 2016, the RACU has not been opened, because it has not been possible to recruit a clinical lead. A number of factors are being blamed for this, including a national shortage of doctors. This has been resolved with the appointment of a part-time doctor, and it is intended that the unit will open in October.

Care home beds

A patient who has attended the RACU may be discharged and continue to be treated in their own home or admitted to a step up bed at The Orders of St John Care Trust, an eight-bed facility in a separate building on the same site, due to open in the autumn of 2016. Representations have been made to the Orders of St John Care Trust by members of Henley Town Council to name this facility The Peppard Wing, as a reference to the Peppard Ward in the former hospital. This is currently being considered.

Vacant space

The original plan also included a 12-bed hospice on the first floor to be run by the Sue Ryder organisation. This services would have been transferred from the Nettlebed hospice. However, Sue Ryder withdrew from the scheme, and a tenant is currently being sought for the first floor by NHS Property Services.

Outpatient services

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (RBFT) has run outpatient clinics at the Townlands Hospital for several years, with the majority of specialties providing clinics.

Within the old hospital, four clinic rooms were available with an average of 700 attendances per month. There are eight clinic rooms available in the new hospital and much work has been undertaken to increase the number of clinics held at Townlands Hospital.

The clinics that were held in the old hospital were transferred to the new hospital, with minimal disruption to services.

A minor procedures room is also available which has enabled a 'see and treat' dermatology service to be commenced once a week, whereby patients requiring a minor operation can have this carried out on the same day as their outpatient appointment.

In April 2016 there were over 800 attendances, over 1000 attendances in May 2016, and nearly 1200 attendances in June 2016.

The increase in activity is a combination of both increasing existing services and new clinics starting. Potential new services that are being considered include diabetes and respiratory.

The clinics below were previously provided in the old Townlands Hospital and were transferred to the new hospital:

Audiology	Neurology
Cardiology	Ophthalmology
Dermatology	Orthoptics
Elderly Care	Paediatrics
Endocrinology	Pain Management
ENT (ear, nose and throat)	Podiatric Surgery
Gastroenterology	Rheumatology
General Surgery	Trauma & Orthopaedics
Gynaecology	Urology
Nephrology.	

The clinics below have either expanded their presence at Townlands Hospital or are new services that have commenced following the move into the new building:

Audiology	Gastroenterology
Cardiology	Ophthalmology (from July)
Dermatology	Paediatric T&O
Elderly Care	Rheumatology
Endocrinology (bariatric)	Trauma & Orthopaedics
ENT (pending recruitment).	

Some other services, such as podiatry and physiotherapy, are provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.