

Report of the Inspector of Mental Health Services 2010

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE	HSE South
APPROVED CENTRE	South Lee Mental Health Unit, Cork University Hospital
CATCHMENT AREA	South Lee
NUMBER OF WARDS	1
NAMES OF UNITS OR WARDS INSPECTED	South Lee Mental Health Unit
TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS	46
CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO REGISTRATION	No
TYPE OF INSPECTION	Unannounced Night Inspection
DATE OF INSPECTION	19 October 2010

Description of ward inspected

South Lee Mental Health Unit was located in the building of Cork University Hospital. Access to the unit for admissions was through the Emergency Department. The approved centre itself has an unsuitable layout as an acute unit and there were plans to construct a new unit within the hospital in the next two to three years. Poor community facilities resulted in overdependence on admissions to the acute unit and consequently it could be very busy and congested.

Staffing levels

There were six nurses on duty: three on the male side and three on the female side and a one-to-one special nurse on the female side. There was also a night supervisor who covered St. Finbarr's Hospital and the supervised residences. A non consultant hospital doctor (NCHD) and a consultant psychiatrist were on call.

Residents

There had been two admissions to the approved centre during the evening. A full assessment and management plan had been completed by the NCHD. A nursing assessment had taken place. There were three residents on leave and these beds were used by other residents.

Medication

Night medication had been administered at approximately 2200h. This was done by two nursing staff.

Seclusion

Seclusion was not used in the approved centre.

Mechanical restraint

Mechanical restraint was not used in the approved centre.

Risk Management

There had been no serious incidents on the day or night of inspection. Both upstairs and downstairs dormitories had continuous nursing presence.

Environment

There was a mixture of single rooms and four-and six-bed dormitories. All were open. All beds had privacy curtains. There was full access to toilets. One toilet upstairs was untidily strewn with toilet paper and the top of the stairs was untidy with cigarette butts on the floor. At the time of inspection the approved centre was quiet and conducive to sleep. The television was turned off at midnight. Lighting was low.

Access to food and water/hot drinks at night

The residents had snacks during the evening and there was access to drinking water.

Documentation/Handover procedure

A formal handover was held at the beginning of the night shift at approximately 1915h.

Interviews with service users

Most residents were in bed and were unavailable to speak with the Inspectorate.

Conclusion

There was evidence that the approved centre was well run and managed at night. Each new admission had an excellent assessment and a comprehensive management plan as well as a nursing assessment and individual care plan. Parts of the approved centre were untidy especially one of the upstairs toilets. The approved centre was calm and conducive to sleep.

Recommendations

1. Toilets should be kept clean and tidy.