

Mental health, learning disability
and neurodevelopmental care



Sussex Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

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Brighton and Hove HOSC November 2025

Chalkhill update



Our vision
Delivering great care and
improving outcomes together

Chalkhill background

- Chalkhill is a 12-bedded mixed-gender inpatient ward in Haywards Heath for 12-18-year-olds who have acute mental health needs
- We offer assessment and treatment of a wide range of mental health difficulties and needs
- CQC inspection in 2023 identified recommendations for improvement which SPFT has sought to implement alongside internally identified improvements
- Further inspection in August 2025 raised concerns
- SPFT made the decision to temporarily close the unit due to lack of sustained improvement and to provide an opportunity to put in place required changes
- It remains our intention to re-open the ward in due course.

Changes required during temporary closure

- Redesign the clinical model to ensure it meets the needs of the children and young people who require inpatient care, following changes in overall acuity and in clinical presentation
- The new clinical model to reflect national and regional best practice and be informed and coproduced by young people and their families.
- Recruit to key clinical leadership roles
- Complete a programme of organisational development for the new leadership team once recruitment has been completed
- Undertake building work to improve the inpatient environment and reflects the needs of the patient group.

Actions and mitigations

- During 12-week window to closure we have been working closely with young people, their families and carers
- Clinical plans are in place to support either community discharge or transfer to another inpatient unit by December 2025
- Additional investment in community services to treat young people at home during period of temporary closure
- Engaging with staff to redeploy to alternative roles
- Specific actions underway to make changes and identified improvements:
 - Engagement plan with young people, families and carers to shape new clinical model
 - Recruiting psychiatrist to lead new care model design
 - New workforce model design underway in line with Quality Network for Inpatient CAMHS standards
 - Benchmarking visits to other services to see best practice
 - Draft building work designs under review
 - Governance structures being established to oversee progress



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