



Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust



Amber Unit

Mental health and behaviour service for adults with learning disabilities

Amber Unit

Amber Unit is a 12 bed specialist assessment and treatment service. The service provides care and support to men and women with learning disabilities who may have additional psychiatric, behavioural, physical and developmental disorders such as autistic spectrum disorder and attention hyperactivity disorder.

Individuals aged 16 years and over may be admitted to Amber Unit. The majority of care and support offered by Amber will be provided within the main unit; however there is access to a additional unit (4 Sycamores) which can be utilised if it is felt that an individual's care provision can be enhanced by being in a low stimulus environment. Patients who may benefit from accessing 4 Sycamores are those significantly struggling with living in close proximity with others or those with specific sensory needs.



Due to the vulnerability of individuals receiving care and support within Amber and the physical environment of the unit, certain characteristics will make an individual inappropriate for admission to Amber. If these are identified within the pre-admission process, it is unlikely admission can be agreed. These criteria include:

- Patients without a learning disability
- Forensic history or high levels of offending behaviour
- Social admissions (e.g. homelessness)



Introduction

Our inpatient Specialist Assessment and Treatment Service is designed for people with a Learning Disability (LD) and severe mental health and/or behavioural problems which puts them and others at risk. The service receives patients from the West Midlands and beyond.

Amber Unit is a 12 bedded service for men and women of 16 years or over with capacity to offer up to 3 enhanced care suites. These are for people who present with a higher level of challenging behaviour, levels of disturbance, violence and/or mental health problems. Women have access to separate bedroom space and lounge areas to ensure compliance with single sex requirements. The average length of assessment will be between 3-6 months; if further treatment is required, this may result in a longer admission. The service is accredited with the Accreditation for Inpatient Mental Health Services – Learning Disabilities (LD-AIMS, Royal College of Psychiatrists).

Personalised Integrated Treatment Pathway

The treatment pathway has been developed specifically for this service. Its primary aim is to ensure a common framework for all working in and accessing the service. The existence of a standardised integrated treatment pathway with agreed outcomes ensures care is safe, effective and co-ordinated. The pathway also ensures a number of other standards are met including:

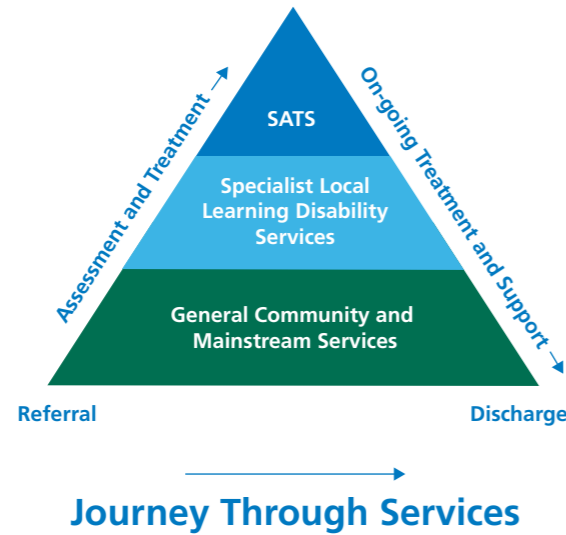
- Standards set by the Royal College of Psychiatrists as part of the LD AIMS and QNIC.
- Defined stages of treatment pathway communicated to multi-disciplinary team and family/carers.
- A shared language and understanding of the process influencing decisions for individual patients.

“We have found the ward to be well run. All staff including catering and cleaning staff have been kind and considerate to my son's needs.”

Parent of Amber Unit service user

Specialist Assessment and Treatment Service (SATS)

Pathway as a component of journey through services



Assessment	Treatment	Discharge
Standards-Assessment Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Admission Review • Inpatient and community coordinator identified • Discharge destination considered • Evidence of MDT input into treatment plan • User Involvement strategy recorded • Capacity review/discussion regarding medication 	Standards – Treatment Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of updated treatment plan • Evidence of charting Outcome Measures • Evidence of on-going reviews including community involvement • Development and sharing of discharge package • Review of Capacity/ Legal Status 	Standards – Discharge Planning Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of agreed discharge plan • Evidence of agreement of follow up plan • Summary of Outcome Measures evaluated • Finalising Legal Status • Meetings to hand over care plan/discharge package • Inter-agency protocol in place re 90 day follow-up

SATS Quality Standards

Facilities at Amber Unit

- 12 beds (all en-suite) including 3 enhanced care suites
- Separate male/female areas
- Garden space with exercise equipment
- Communal areas including lounge and dining area
- Seclusion room
- Near to local shopping centres
- On-site activity and therapy space
e.g. Gym, Craft hub, Sensory clinic, Computer suite, Horticulture area, Sports hall, Therapy rooms, Extensive grounds, Library, Cafeteria, Therapy kitchen



Exercise equipment, an enhanced care suite bedroom and bathroom

“The care staff and the nursing staff have been very re-assuring and hard working and we have developed very positive relationships and a sense of trust as parents.”

Parent of Amber Unit service user



All patients will have an individualised, person-centred package of care designed to meet their specific needs. This will be regularly monitored and reviewed by the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT).

Using a multi-disciplinary approach informed by assessments, the team develop person-centred treatment plans based on a PBS framework. This supports the development of a needs led plan which can be translated into a community setting.



Some of the staff at Amber Unit

Nurses and Health Care Assistants (HCAs)

The team on Amber Unit have extensive experience in the field of learning disabilities. They have a wide range of knowledge, clinical skills and interventions that are used effectively to support the complex needs of all patients. All nurses regularly access learning opportunities to ensure the care provided is always up to date and evidence based and to allow for continued professional development.

Amber Unit also has extremely skilled health care assistants who attend regular training to ensure consistent good practice. All staff encompass the core values of the service and provide a person-centred approach to care for each individual patient.

Clinical Lead

The Clinical Lead assists in coordinating patient's care on admission right through to discharge. They provide leadership to the qualified nurses on the unit offering support, guidance and supervision. The Clinical Lead works closely with all disciplines within the Multi-Disciplinary Team by supporting the therapists and nursing staff in

delivering interventions on the ward. Weekly supervision sessions are offered for health care assistants and qualified nurses working on the ward to effectively support them to carry out the role in delivering good quality, individualised patient care. The Clinical Lead also takes the lead on internal audits to ensure that standards are met and maintained.

Speech and Language Therapy

On admission to the SATS service, patients are seen for assessment of their speech, language and communication needs. This guides the staff team in the best ways to support individual patients in their interactions on and off the unit. Speech and Language Therapy can offer interventions and 1:1 sessions as required, to support in areas such as understanding treatment decisions, developing social communication skills and effective communication strategies.

Amber Unit is used as a learning environment for all disciplines from local universities including trainee doctors, AHP students, nursing students and clinical/ forensic trainee psychologists.

Psychology

- Assessment, functional analysis of challenging behaviour, and formulation – including specialist assessments for trauma/forensic risk/specific diagnoses (e.g. autism), and team formulation
- Individual/group therapeutic interventions to address challenging behaviours and underlying/ contributing factors
- Consultation and indirect input for patients who are unable to engage in direct assessment/treatment
- Training and clinical supervision for qualified and unqualified staff

Occupational Therapy (OT)

The OT team provide assessment of an individual's level of functioning with regards to their physical, mental health and sensory needs. The team will support an individual to identify and maintain a structured and balanced daily routine with an emphasis on meaningful activity. The team have an on-site sensory room with therapists trained in Sensory Integration Therapy providing specialist sensory assessment and intervention based on an individual's specific needs.

Speciality Doctor

The Speciality Doctor covers the responsibility of the specialist assessment and treatment services at Brooklands Hospital under the supervision of a Consultant Psychiatrist. The clinical duties of the Speciality Doctor include:

- Clerking new admissions and other examination and initiation of treatment where appropriate
- Conducting comprehensive medical reviews, arranging investigations and reviewing medication
- Referral to and liaison with other agencies e.g. district general hospitals, general practitioners
- Where appropriate attendance and/or chairing of review meetings, manager's hearing and mental health tribunals for inpatient

Role of the Consultant Psychiatrist within the service

- Receiving referrals for admission and assessing suitability for the service in conjunction with commissioners, referrers and ward staff
- Carrying out assessment of psychiatric, developmental, neurological and other physical

conditions and deriving a personalised treatment plan in partnership with other professionals in the multi-disciplinary team

- Delivering and monitoring treatment
- Planning transition and discharge into appropriate community services, working closely with commissioners, care providers and community learning disability teams
- Developing and using quality assurance systems to improve treatment effectiveness, patient safety and user experience

Operational Manager

The Operational Manager oversees the day to day management of the unit and staff team, ensuring safe staffing levels are maintained. They allocate training for staff and promote staff development, whilst maintaining budgets. They also ensure policies and procedures are adhered to and that staff are aware and understand these. Monitoring sickness and promoting the wellbeing of staff is also imperative. They work closely with the MDT and the Clinical Lead to promote patient care, safety and wellbeing.



Referrals to Amber Unit

Referrals are made via phone or email to the Medical Secretary for SATS:

Brian Oliver Centre
Coleshill Road
Marston Green
B37 7HH
0121 329 4927
debbie.kenny@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Referrers will be asked to complete the pre-admission screening tool which will be reviewed by the Multi-Disciplinary Team. A decision will be made as to whether the referral is appropriate and if so, a full pre-admission assessment will be arranged.



“The staff that assessed my son were professional and supportive and we have found all of the staff to be caring and professional.”

Parent of Amber Unit service user

“The staff on the ward have been extremely helpful and supportive.”

Parent of Amber Unit service user

Further information

The managers and nursing team are available to answer any questions you may have about the unit. Please contact:

Amber Unit
Coleshill Road
Marston Green
B37 7HL

Website: www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Operational Manager:
Lynne Barber

Clinical Lead:
Hannah Perkins

Deputy Managers:
Richard Shaw
Allin Coleman



Operational Manager



Clinical Lead



Amber Unit staff



Access to the Unit

Amber Unit is situated on the Brooklands Hospital site on Coleshill Road in Marston Green. Drive onto the hospital site and it is located at the top of the drive. Parking is available outside Amber Unit.



From M6

Leave M6 at junction 4 and take A446 towards Lichfield. Immediately get into the left hand lane and turn left after 100 yards (signposted NEC and Marston Green). Follow road (under M42 and then over M6) to roundabout. Straight on at roundabout. Take second right into Coleshill Road. Proceed down Coleshill Road, and turn right at mini roundabout into Brooklands Way. Go straight ahead into Brooklands car park.

From M42

Leave M42 at Junction 6 and take A45 towards Coventry. Get into the left-hand lane, and drop down onto the slip road (do not go over new flyover) to roundabout. Turn left onto A446 towards Lichfield and Coleshill. Get into the left hand lane and veer left onto A452, to roundabout. Take third exit off roundabout (A452). At the next roundabout turn left. Take second right into Coleshill Road, and turn right at mini roundabout into Brooklands Way, then go straight ahead into the Brooklands car park.

By Rail

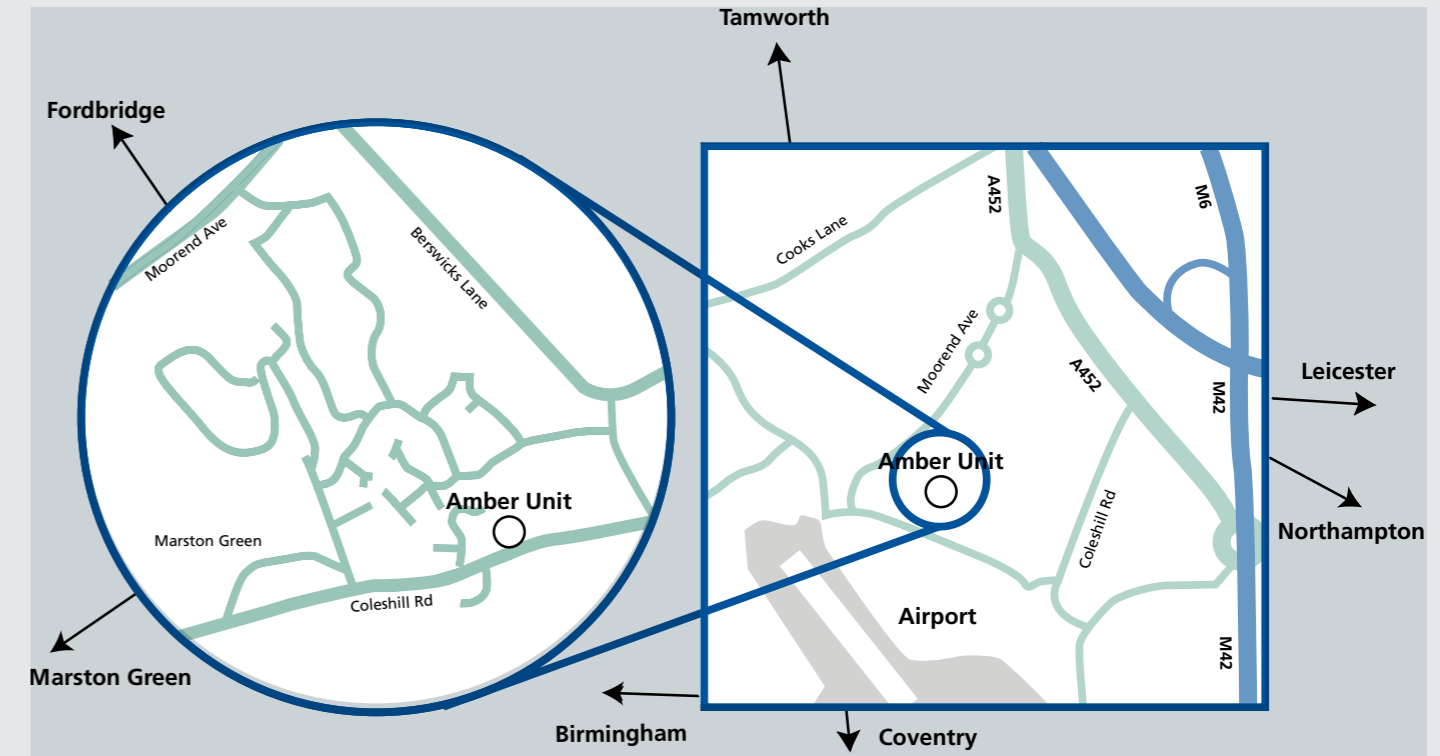
By train from Birmingham New Street to Marston Green. Brooklands is a 20-minute walk from Marston Green station along Station Road, then Alcott Lane, and then Moorend Avenue.

or

Take a taxi from Birmingham International.

“Staff have gone over and above to support my son in his illness.”

Our location





www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk