

Over £400 million pledged to remove dormitories from mental health facilities

- Government has committed to improve the safety, privacy and dignity of patients with mental illness
- A further £2 million for 6 research projects will investigate impact of COVID-19 on mental health

More than £400 million will be committed over the next 4 years to eradicate dormitory accommodation from mental health facilities across the country to improve the safety, privacy and dignity of patients suffering with mental illness.

Today's pledge by the government – to mark World Mental Health Day – builds on the £250 million funding announced in July to remove the outdated dormitories, as part of the government's record investment in NHS infrastructure.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock also announced the first 21 NHS trusts that will receive funding to replace out-of-date mental health dormitories with single en suite rooms, to help improve care for mental health inpatients across the country.

The eradication of dormitories will improve the individual care that can be given to patients, allowing them to reduce the length of their stay in the facility. It will also have benefits for patient safety including through better infection control and by reducing the risk of incidents involving patients or staff.

This new funding delivers on the government's commitment to accelerate investment in health infrastructure, and to level up access to mental health services, so that every inpatient can receive treatment in an appropriate setting.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

Mental health staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep mental health services open 24/7 so those most in need can continue to get vital support.

Today I am reiterating our commitment to those patients by stepping up our effort to improve our country's mental health infrastructure. By eradicating outdated and unsuitable dormitories across England we can ensure those suffering with mental illness are given the safety, privacy and dignity they deserve.

Not only will the new single rooms improve the individual care we

can offer patients, they will provide a better environment for our hardworking staff too.

Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Nadine Dorries said:

The last few months have been challenging for everyone, particularly those with pre-existing mental health conditions.

Every person receiving treatment in a mental health facility deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and privacy, in an appropriate setting.

I am delighted that today's investment in mental health infrastructure will ensure that inpatients throughout the country can receive the best quality care.

NHS England's National Mental Health Director Claire Murdoch said:

Millions of mental health patients are seen by the NHS every year, many thousands as inpatients, and each and every one of them should receive care in wards that are therapeutic and support their recovery, which is why this funding will be so vital.

And the NHS is also investing in local mental health teams to provide alternatives to ward admission which will help more than 2 million patients get care closer to home.

Dr Adrian James, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said:

Replacing dormitories with single en suite rooms is a positive step towards the much-needed upgrading of mental health wards – even more urgent in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and a second wave.

With this funding, government is taking decisive action to properly support people living with a mental illness. We hope that the necessary investment in other areas of the mental health estate will follow in the upcoming spending review.

This comes alongside wider announcements to mark World Mental Health Day, including £2 million for research into the effects of COVID-19 on mental health. The research will focus on the effects of the pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of 3 at-risk groups: healthcare workers, children and young people, and those with serious mental health problems.

The government has continued to prioritise mental health throughout the pandemic. Mental health charities, including Mind and BEAT, have benefited from £9.2 million in funding since March to enable them to provide vital

support to those who need it most.

This funding has been used to support helplines and webchats, providing support networks for people experiencing anxiety and loneliness, providing safe spaces to reduce the risk of social exclusion of vulnerable people with ongoing, complex mental health problems, and move specialist emotional and practical support for victims of sexual violence from face-to-face online.

The government has also invested £5 million in national loneliness charities, raising awareness and providing advice through the [Let's Talk Loneliness](#) campaign, and a new Tackling Loneliness Network, to support the wellbeing of those struggling with social isolation over the pandemic.

This commitment to transforming and improving mental health services is set to continue, as the Department for Health and Social Care has pledged to invest £2.3 billion in mental health by 2023 to 2024 as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Region	MH provider (Trust)	Name of site where works are to be carried out
East of England	Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	Basildon Hospital – Mental Health Unit
East of England	Central & North West London Foundation Trust	Campbell Centre
London	Barnet Enfield and Haringey MH Trust	The Oaks, Chase Farm Hospital
London	Barnet Enfield and Haringey MH Trust	Silver Birches, Chase Farm Hospital
London	Barnet Enfield and Haringey MH Trust	Chase Building, Chase Farm Hospital
London	South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	Wisteria Ward – Springfield University Hospital
Midlands	Leicestershire Partnership Trust	Evington Centre
Midlands	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Elgar Unit, Newtown Hospital
Midlands	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Stonebow Unit, Hereford
North East and Yorkshire	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Carleton Clinic
North East and Yorkshire	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Campus for Ageing and Vitality
North East and Yorkshire	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
North East and Yorkshire	TAH – Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust	Michael Carlisle Centre and The Longley Centre
North West	Alder Hey Childrens NHS Foundation Trust	Alder Hey Hospital in the Park
North West	Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Laureate House at Wythenshawe Hospital

Region	MH provider (Trust)	Name of site where works are to be carried out
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Scarisbrick Ward, Ormskirk & District General Hospital Site
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Altham Meadows, Morecambe
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Hurstwood Ward, Hill View
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Kentmere Ward, Westmorland General Hospital
North West	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	Brushwood, Speke
North West	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	Millvena House, Anfield
North West	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Ramsbottom Ward, Fairfield Hospital
North West	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Moorside, Birchill Hospital
South East	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Prospect Park Hospital
South East	Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT)	Oakwood site
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Gosport War Memorial Hospital
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Melbury
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Parklands
South East	Sussex Partnership Trust	Shepherd House
South East	Sussex Partnership Trust	West Sussex Bed Reconfiguration
South West	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	Hillview Lodge at Royal United Hospital,
South West	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Meadow View, North Devon
South West	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Beech Ward, Torbay
South West	Livewell Southwest	Glenbourne Unit