EAST CHESHIRE NHS TRUST

HEALTHCARE AT HMP STYAL

Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Styal, Cheshire, is a Closed Category prison for female adults and young offenders. It is the only women's prison in the north west and is one of the largest women's prisons in the UK. It is operated by Her Majesty's Prison Service.

HMP Styal has a capacity for 460 women, including up to 9 women and 10 babies to the age of 18 months. There is a high annual turnover of prisoners, ranging from very short stay prisoners on remand to those serving long sentences.

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare for prisoners is a very important aspect of HMP Styal's services. The healthcare services are a key partner within HMP Styal and by working in a transparent and cohesive approach with other organisations provide a significant contribution to a number of agendas including :- equality and diversity; the safe prison environment; reducing re-offending; reception and discharge pathways and contingencies; reducing self harm; the planning of care in custody for those with disabilities; the safe, timely and effective admission and discharge of those who require hospital attendance or admission; the safe transfer of women to other prisons or secure environments.

Since April 2011, the Healthcare Unit in HMP Styal has been provided by East Cheshire NHS Trust. The services are commissioned by Central & Eastern Cheshire PCT.

Healthcare within HMP Styal is delivered to a set of core principles:

- That those in prison receive the same care and access to the NHS as received by the general public with emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention, self-care & rehabilitation.

- All services are provided with due regard to the application of decency, respect, dignity and equality.

PRIMARY CARE/ COMMUNITY SERVICES

A broad range of healthcare services are provided including;

- General Practitioners (including access to a female GP);
- Mental health;
- Integrated Drugs Treatment Services;
- Sexual health;
- Podiatry;
- Optometry;
- Dentistry;
- Midwifery;
- Chronic disease management;
- Health Promotion.

eWIN OVERVIEW

HEALTHCARE AND WORKFORCE

Many of the staff working at HMP Styal have considerable experience of prisoner needs. Many staff are employees of East Cheshire NHS Trust, though some are employed by sub-contracting partners - for example, the Mental Health In-Reach Team is provided by Greater Manchester West NHS Foundation Trust. The Head of Healthcare is a member of the prison's Senior Management Team.

The workforce includes a range of clinical professions alongside managerial and administrative support. Any patient who requires in-patient treatment is treated outside the prison.

Prisoners entering HMP Styal often have complex healthcare needs. Many are vulnerable, with mental health issues and social care needs. There can be several new admissions a day and every new prisoner receives health screening, both for basic medical and dental needs and to identify any other health issues, including chronic or acute conditions and substance misuse issues.

Most services are delivered within the core working day, but there is a 24-hour nursing presence to facilitate the administration of medications and to respond to emergencies. There is a General Practitioner on site until 10pm Monday to Fridays and on Saturday afternoons to undertake the medical screening of women newly arrived from court or other establishments.

Where possible, HMP Styal seeks to take a holistic approach to health, enabling prisoners to combine access to healthcare with access to work, education and training, and recreation. For example, women are able to train and work in horticulture and gardening. There is also a fully equipped gym.

In addition to access to primary health services, HMP Styal has a day centre facility, staffed by two specialist nurses and support staff, which is able to provide ad hoc advice, counselling and other services as required by individual prisoners.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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