

Cystic Fibrosis our focus

The adult cystic fibrosis service at Lewisham Hospital currently provides full care to 52 adults. The panel observed that the long-term viability of the service will be dependent on either identifying a referral base to support growth, and therefore funding for the additional multidisciplinary team (MDT) members needed, or through integration with a neighbouring CF centre.

User feedback identified communication and accessibility in relation to the CF team, and the availability of outpatient care, as areas of excellence. Perceived areas of improvement included car parking, exercise arrangements and food for the inpatient service.

The panel also identified the dedicated MDT team, which provides an individualised service that is valued by patients, as an area of excellence. Other areas included the outpatient and inpatient facilities that provide sufficient capacity for current patient numbers, and comprehensive patient management protocols. The panel identified a need to recruit in the areas of specialist nursing, physiotherapy, psychology, social work, pharmacy and database coordination, as a key recommendation.

Further areas of consideration identified by the panel included: inpatient food provision, a need to provide support for MDT attendance at CF educational meetings, sourcing of a local service for analysing tobramycin levels, and developing service line-reporting to allow a better understanding of income, service expenditure and Trust overheads.