

## Statement from RQIA

### **RQIA Publishes Findings of Inspection of Muckamore Abbey Hospital, Spring 2023**

RQIA has published the report of an unannounced inspection of Muckamore Abbey Hospital, which took place in spring 2023. This inspection is part of RQIA's ongoing scrutiny of the quality of the service provided at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

The aim of the inspection was to assess the quality and safety of care delivered to patients at the Hospital whilst they await discharge or resettlement. The inspection involved unannounced visits across a 24-hour period to observe patient care on each ward.

The inspection team observed patient experiences; staff engagement with patients; how patients spent their day; the reaction to and management of incidents; staffing; senior leadership oversight; and ward environments. Inspectors also gathered experiences and views from patients and their families and from staff.

This inspection report reflects performance at the time of the inspection, highlighting both good practice and areas for improvement. The report sets out a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) that the Belfast Trust has agreed to implement. The key areas where improvement is required include the effective deployment of staff across the site, the condition of both ward environments and individual patient's living environments; records relating to supervision, training plans for adult safeguarding and mandatory training for substantive staff in post.

At the time of this inspection the patient resettlement programme was ongoing. Since RQIA's previous inspection in July 2022 a small number of patients have been successfully resettled to the community. Overall the pace of resettlement continued to be slow due to many factors some of which are beyond the control of the placing HSC Trust. These include securing suitable accommodation in the community to meet individual patient needs, and the regional workforce challenges.

This inspection was undertaken before the Department of Health's announcement of the planned closure of Muckamore Abbey Hospital in June 2024, which is dependent on all remaining patients having been appropriately resettled in community settings. This announcement followed a public consultation on the hospital's future and is in line with the direction set out by previous Health Minister.

RQIA's regulatory oversight of Muckamore Abbey Hospital continues. Further regulatory activity to assess the quality and safety of care is currently ongoing.

You can access this inspection report at:

[https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/media/CareServices/020426\\_MAH\\_Care\\_05032023.pdf](https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/media/CareServices/020426_MAH_Care_05032023.pdf)

Should any family member, service user, or staff member have any concern about a care service, please contact RQIA at: telephone: (028) 9536 1990, or email: [info@rqia.org.uk](mailto:info@rqia.org.uk) .

**ENDS**