

Ligature Risks

Second Ockenden Report – Section 17

“Estates that are neither fit for purpose, maintained adequately or addressing risks to patients – e.g. ligature risks left in place for several years following on from HIW raising concerns about them in multiple visits.”

BCUHB Response to HASCAS & Ockenden Reports on Ligature Issues.

You will note that the adaptations have been completed in certain areas and some are still to be completed.

For information, anti-ligature work is done on all ligature points at any height – for someone wishing to asphyxiate themselves whilst in a disturbed state it is not necessary to use a ligature point above head height. Many of these incidents take place using a point just a couple of feet above ground.

STARTS

7.3 Anti-Ligature Scheme

A significant programme of anti-ligature programme works has been delivered through 2017/18 and is now drawing to an end. Over the past eighteen months work has been progressing across eight different sites and in twenty three different ward environments whilst clinical teams have continued to provide care. It is testament to the dedication and close cooperation of estates and clinical staff that even when temporary bed closures were required disruption was kept to a minimum including the need for out of area beds. During the early part of the scheme, we were also able to undertake some long overdue environmental works.

The anti-ligature part of the environmental scheme has focused on unsupervised areas within wards in the Division, and we have seen upgrades within bedrooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, and toilets. All upgrades have conformed to the most up to date anti-ligature equipment including:

- New bedroom doors fitted with continuous hinges, vision panels, fully fitted floor springs, anti-ligature handles, and door head alarms.
- New hand wash basins fitted in bedrooms with ‘wave action’ sensor taps and all pipework fully enclosed within new anti-ligature unit.
- Where necessary, new external anti-ligature windows have been fitted in bedrooms, bathrooms, toilets and shower rooms.
- All radiators within bedrooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, and toilets have been fitted with anti-ligature radiator covers.
- All WCs have been replaced with ‘wave action’ sensor flush facilities, and all pipework fully enclosed within new anti-ligature unit.
- Features within bathrooms, shower rooms, and toilets such as towel rails, toilet roll holders, soap dispensers etc. have all been replaced with anti-ligature equipment.

ENDS