

# HOSPITAL ROOMS - Torbay Hospital

**We are excited to announce that Devon Partnership NHS Trust has partnered with Hospital Rooms, an arts and mental health charity, to create artworks for three inpatient mental health wards at Torbay Hospital.**

The project is supported by local partners. Healthwatch Torbay and Torbay Culture are advising on the local context, opportunities, and challenges. As part of the project's commitment to work with local talent from Torbay and South Devon, Hospital Rooms is also being supported by Artizan Gallery to reach and discover creative practitioners from within the region who will deliver and benefit from this initiative. The project has also been supported by construction firm Kier and fashion retailer Anthropologie.

Hospital Rooms commission extraordinary artworks for mental health inpatient units across the UK. The charity helps turn clinical, cold and sometimes frightening rooms into welcoming, soothing and beautiful spaces. They work with acclaimed regional, national and international artists, who in turn workshop with staff and service users to come up with radically new visuals for each space.

Devon Partnership NHS Trust have worked with Hospital Rooms previously, commissioning artwork for both The Junipers, a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit, and Jasmine Lodge, a Mother and Baby Unit. Turner Prize nominated artist Mark Titchner created artwork for the MBU in 2019. Mark talks through the process of creating the artwork in the film [here](#).

This latest Hospital Rooms project will see the proposed creation of 15 artworks, five on each ward. A series of workshops will be hosted involving the artists, staff, service users and carers to generate ideas for the artworks. Plans are provisionally in place for the project to begin in November 2021. Once completed, and COVID-19 guidance permitting, it is hoped that an exhibition of the artwork will be opened to the public. This will help promote the project and demonstrate how art and creativity can be made accessible to people even at the most difficult times.

For more information contact [niamh@hospital-rooms.com](mailto:niamh@hospital-rooms.com)  
Hospital Rooms, Unit 301, Pillbox, London, E2 6GG  
[www.hospital-rooms.com](http://www.hospital-rooms.com) / [info@hospital-rooms.com](mailto:info@hospital-rooms.com)  
Charity Reg: 1168101



Bindi Vora for The Junipers, Devon Partnership NHS Trust

*'The importance of a therapeutic environment in which to support people with mental health needs cannot be overstated. We know that art can play a huge part in helping to create this environment and I have no doubt that this project will transform these three wards, in the same way that it has done at our Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit and our Mother and Baby Unit.'*

- Director of Nursing and Professions at Devon Partnership NHS Trust, Chris Burford,

*'The Hospital Rooms project is an innovative and exciting initiative that works across creativity and wellbeing. It shows how we can utilise the potential of us all to empower and transform. This is about changing our culture and how service users, Carers, artists and staff can work together to make spaces welcoming and responsive to their needs. Torbay Culture and Healthwatch are pleased to support Hospital Rooms and their work which illustrates the real benefits of partnership across health, community and culture'*

- Kevin Dixon, Chair of Healthwatch Torbay and board member of Torbay Culture

# This project will take place in 3 units in Torbay Hospital

## Salus Mental Health Ward

This **pioneering new mental health unit is being built** at Torbay Hospital.

**It will help tackle the shortages of adult mental health beds in the area and ensure local people can receive care close to home.**

Service - Adult Acute (Male and female)

Age - 18 - 65

Number of beds - 16

Average length of stay - 35-40 days

Typical diagnoses - Acutely unwell, psychosis, risk to self

## Beech Mental Health Ward

This mental health unit **provides care to older adults** and is being extended and refurbished to enhance its environment.

**One in four of Torbay's population are over 65, and it is expected to rise to one in three by 2030. It is essential that the mental health provision for older people in the area is of an exceptional quality.**

Service - Older Adults Acute (Male and female)

Age - 65 +

Number of beds - 16

Average length of stay - 35 - 40 days

Typical diagnoses - Functional mental health problems- depression, anxiety, psychosis

## Haytor Mental Health Ward

This mental health unit provides care to adults who are acutely mentally unwell.

**Within Torbay around one in three of the population live in areas in the top 20% most deprived in England. People in more deprived communities are more likely to experience multiple long-term mental health conditions and generally have poorer health outcomes, such as shorter life expectancy.**

Service - Adult Acute (Male and female)

Age - 18- 65

Number of beds - 16

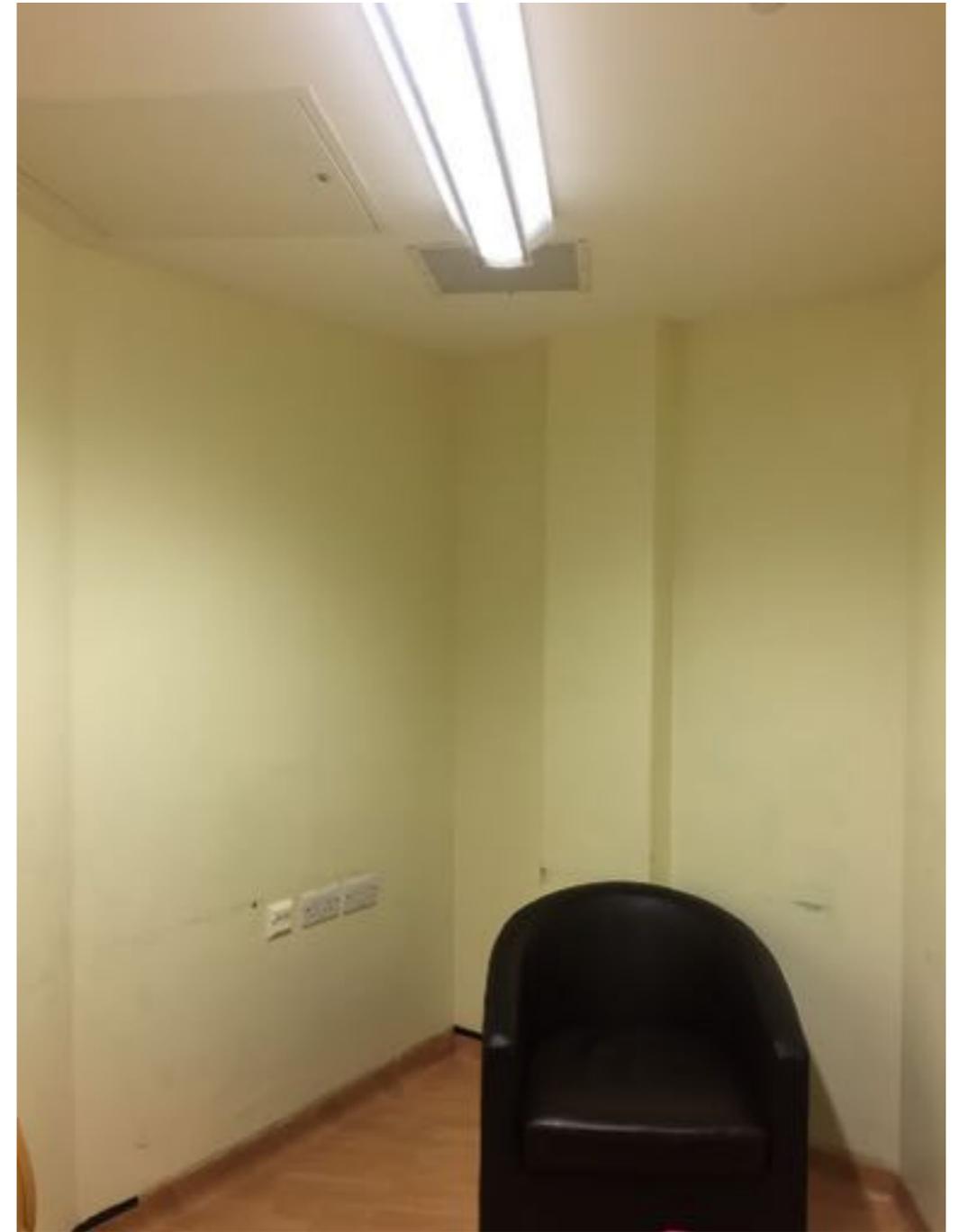
Average length of stay - 35- 40 days

Typical diagnoses - Acutely unwell, psychosis, risk to self



**HOSPITAL  
ROOMS**

The charity Hospital Rooms was created in 2016 when a friend of the co-founders was sectioned after a suicide attempt. They realised that mental health units can be stark, cold and frightening places.





**Hospital Rooms now commissions world class artists to work with patients and staff to transform these spaces to bring hope, joy and expression.**

Our artists work  
with patients  
and staff  
through creative  
workshops and  
we prioritise  
their ideas,  
experiences and  
opinions.



Sara Berman Workshop for Jasmine Lodge, Exeter

“To have somebody come along and invite you to take part in a workshop and listen to you and talk to you as an equal, that really validates you as a human being.”

Patient  
Mother and Baby Unit, Devon Partnership Trust

# Workshops in hospital

Lots of our workshops take place on inpatient mental health wards with patients who might be under a Section of the Mental Health Act. We ensure every session is accessible and engaging for people who have severe and enduring mental health conditions. Our artists work with patients to ensure the artworks they make are appropriate and of interest to the people who will encounter them.



# Workshops in the community

We also lead creative sessions with the wider community and those who may have been discharged from mental health services. We want to give people an opportunity to share their experiences to support and inform our artists. We also want to generate connections between local cultural and commercial organisations who may support individuals to access creativity and skills development on a longer term basis.



Art workshops in Exeter Community Centre

**Torbay, Totnes or Dartington, Newton Abbot,  
Kingsbridge, Ashburton, Teignmouth or Dawlish,  
Ivybridge, Tavistock**

We worked previously at the Jasmine Lodge,  
a Mother and Baby Unit in Exeter



# At Centre Court in Plymouth



# Greenfields in Plymouth



# And The Junipers Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit in Exeter

"Hospital Rooms brings art to those most at need of what it can bring: hope, a view of another world and healing."

Stephen Felmingham  
Head of School Critical and Cultural Studies, Plymouth  
College of Art



“And what you guys have done is change something that is dark into something that is beautiful.”

Patient  
Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit, Devon Partnership Trust

Jon Emmony and Bindi Vora for The Junipers



**“Art is so important for stimulating  
that sense of wanting to go.”**

Patient

Mother and Baby Unit, Devon Partnership Trust

# Partners

**Healthwatch Torbay** is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Torbay, South Devon, home to over 130,000 people in the three coastal towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. Local Healthwatch organisations were established as fully independent bodies run by local people, for local people as part of a national healthwatch network set up under the Health & Social Care Act (2012) [www.healthwatch.org.uk](http://www.healthwatch.org.uk)

**Torbay Culture** based at TDA was established to progress Enjoy, Talk, Do, Be the cultural strategy for Torbay. The strategy's mission is to enable cultural development of Torbay - which is designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark - and make it a better place in which to live, work, learn and visit. [www.torbayculture.org](http://www.torbayculture.org)

**Artizan Gallery** is an independent art gallery dedicated to championing the work of local artists in the south west. Working from its base in Torquay, Artizan also manages pop-up spaces across Torbay and the region. [www.artizangallery.co.uk](http://www.artizangallery.co.uk)

