



Highfield opens new €30m day hospital for mental health patients

New facility will create an extra 12 places for patients and could lead to more satellite clinics

Highfield Healthcare, the north Dublin nursing home and psychiatric hospital, is opening a new day hospital for mental health patients.

The hospital, which invested €30 million in the development of its mental health service in 2012, will open the facility on Tuesday.

The new facility will be part of its Hampstead Clinic Services which currently has a 10-bed acute psychiatric unit for over-18s.

The unit treats patients for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and other psychiatric illnesses. The day hospital will create an extra 12 places for patients.

Stephen Eustace, chief executive of Highfield Healthcare, said the healthcare provider will consider opening further day hospitals in its north Dublin catchment areas if there is a considerable demand for the service.

"If we're to look at the future, we'd see how this day hospital runs. If it does, we'd like to see satellite clinics rolled out across the country," said Eustace.

Established by Eustace's great-great-great-great grandfather, John Eustace, in 1825, Highfield Healthcare employs 400 staff today. The 200-year-old Highfield is an umbrella organisation for its four units which cover age-related illnesses, psychiatric care, Alzheimer's and the 65-acre Elmhurst Nursing Home.

Since 2012, the healthcare provider has boosted its turnover from €12 million to €24 million and expects to hit turnover of €30 million in five years' time.

The hospital has over 300 beds, with 204 beds in its nursing home and another 110 beds in the mental health facilities. Eustace said that in more recent years the demand on both of its services has increased. "The grey wave is upon us with older age. Then within acute mental health services there is still a demand, but there isn't enough of both residential or, in this case, day hospital beds.

"The HSE can't look after it all," said Eustace.

Eustace said there needs to be joined up thinking between the HSE and private healthcare on mental health. "We're out here adding a new service to patients going through private insurance, but we'd love to support HSE patients," said Eustace.