

# Psychiatric Liaison Service

## Older People's Mental Health

The liaison nurse will ask you about your general well-being, sleep and appetite, mood and memory. You can ask questions or stop the interview at any stage.

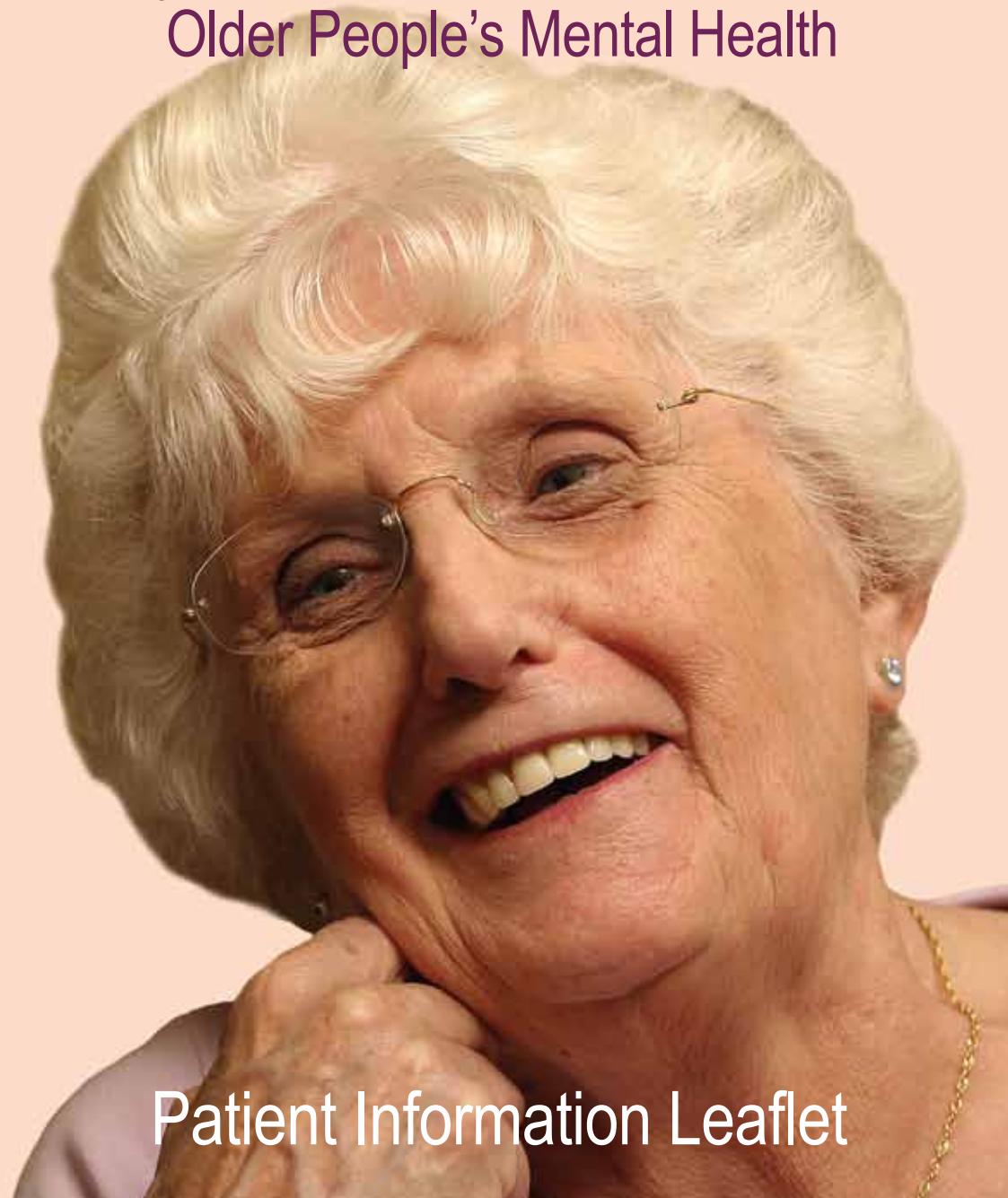
Following this initial assessment the liaison nurse will agree an immediate plan with you, and share this with the hospital staff and your family or carers, with your consent.

The liaison nurse will then discuss your case with the consultant psychiatrist, and review your treatment plan and we will then share our advice and recommendations with you and those involved in your care.

If appropriate and with your consent, we will refer you on to other health professionals who may provide further support, or specialized services. We also will inform your GP of our contact with you by writing them a letter.

### **What hours do we work?**

At present we operate a Monday to Friday 9am -5pm service in both Altnagelvin area and Waterside hospitals.



**Older people are the main users of acute hospital services and up to 60 per cent of older people may experience mental health problems-most commonly delirium, depression and memory problems during a stay in hospital. Admission to an acute hospital is often the first opportunity to diagnose and respond to mental health problems in older people.**

## **How have I been referred?**

Contact with our services has been made by a member of medical staff or other hospital health professional.

## **Who are we?**

Our team comprises of a consultant psychiatrist, a liaison mental health nurse and a team leader.

## **What does this service do?**

We provide an initial assessment, a treatment plan and review whilst someone is an inpatient in hospital. We liaise with appropriate professionals and signpost clients to relevant services for further treatment, support and advice. An initial interview and assessment will be made by the liaison nurse and following discussion with, and with your agreement, draw up an initial treatment plan.

## **How will I be assessed?**

The liaison nurse completing the assessment will introduce themselves, describe why they are seeing you and request consent to assess you and speak to your relatives or carers. You have the right for them not to contact any person without your permission. Confidentiality will be maintained in most cases. There are occasions where people within the health service break confidentiality due to concerns about the safety of the people they are working with or others.

You will be asked about your medical history, medications, any previous mental health concerns, family history of illness and lifestyle and social circumstances e.g. are there any other services or support services involved?. The nurse will need to ask you about present and past events that led to your admission to hospital or contributed to how you are currently feeling.

