

Not Enough beds? Cram some more in!

The building of a PFI-funded hospital for Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust which led to the centralisation of services on the Pinderfields site in Wakefield brought a drastic reduction in beds at both Dewsbury and Pontefract hospitals.

But when the new Pinderfields was opened in 2010 much was made of the brand new facilities with 4 bedded bays and single occupancy rooms replacing the Florence Nightingale-style dormitory wards at the old Pinderfields.

But the shortage of beds meant that it didn't take long for many of the new 4 bedded rooms to be turned into '5 bedders' to cope with the extra acute patients flowing into the new Pinderfields.

Now, in October 2018 staff have been informed that a sixth bed was to be placed in many of the so called '4 bedders' to deal with the expected "winter pressures".

Within days, and during one of the mildest Octobers on record, the extra beds were full of patients.

Long gone are the days when nurses and support staff had room to work around the patients. Cram em in and move em out is the order of the day.

If anyone needed any more proof that the Pinderfields and Pontefract PFI has failed this must be it. Wards and services slashed at Dewsbury and Pontefract while £millions are spent on a new hospital which cannot cope with the workload without squeezing more capacity into limited space.