Background:
The Older Persons Mental Health inpatient wards at the Western Community Hospital consist of mental health patients over the age of 65 suffering from organic and functional disease. This patient group often suffer with multiple medical comorbidities and frailty which makes them susceptible to sudden deterioration.

During the COVID-19 pandemic it was clear that a formal process of documented decision making regarding levels of escalation was required.

Intervention:
Treatment Escalation Plans (TEP) are formalised documents detailing the ceiling of care for a patient in case of clinical deterioration, whilst taking into account patient or next of kin’s (NOK) wishes.

Our aim is to tailor the TEP form to a community mental health setting, increase awareness of the TEP form and its usage.

MDT responses to: “In my own words, I think a treatment escalation plan is:”

- decision
- deteriorate
- physical
- appropriate

plan
- manage
care
- condition
- ward
- case
treatment
- guide
- ceiling

Advanced
- admission
- patient

about

Results:
- 100% of inpatients now have a TEP form easily locatable in their files.
- MDT understanding of TEP forms increased by 40% and views on comprehensiveness by 77%.
- Time to complete TEP form from date of admission decreased by 55%.
- Patient NOK’s understanding and desire to have a formalised TEP was 96%.
- 90% of patients were for full escalation, 10% were for ward-based care and none for palliative care.

Impact and Future Plans:
- TEP forms were successfully implemented in our community mental health hospital and we plan further post-implementation evaluation.
- Qualitative data showed improved understanding by MDT members and NOK, although a formalised teaching session would prove beneficial.
- We intend to roll out the TEP form across our mental health trust and share findings nationally to promote best practice.