



EXCELLENT HEALTH CHECK RESULTS FOR ASPH

The Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check Ratings for 2007/08, published earlier in October, show that we have improved in both the quality of services and use of resources. The latest ratings for 2007/08 and for the 400,000 plus people the Trust serves are Good for quality of services and Fair for use of resources. In 2006/07, the previous year, we were Fair and Weak respectively.

Paul Bentley, Chief Executive says: "You have all worked really hard over the last year to ensure that our ratings have improved. We have focussed on reducing the time that patients wait, reducing the number of hospital infections and increasing the level of service we provide to patients, their relatives and visitors. The real improvements we have seen are a testament to the skill and diligence of all of you."

The Health Check Ratings provide a very solid base from which the Trust will move forward to Foundation Trust status, which offers the chance to further improve our services and connect more with all our local communities.

The Healthcare Commission's assessments show that Ashford and St. Peter's was rated as follows:

- Safety and cleanliness – 12/13
- Standard of care - 9/9
- Waiting to be seen – 11/13
- Dignity and respect – 10/10
- Keeping the public healthy – 5/5
- Good management – 15/17

Aileen McLeish, Chairman said: "All staff can be proud of this achievement - we have moved up a level in both areas. This is recognition of the significant efforts made by all staff to ensure that our patients get the best possible clinical service. However, we are not complacent and recognise that there is more we can do. Both our Patient and Staff Surveys indicate that there is further work we can do to ensure that both patients and staff benefit from improved services at our hospitals."

Marianne Griffiths, Director of Commissioning and Delivery at South East Coast SHA wrote to Paul Bentley and said: "Many congratulations to you and the team on your Trust's achievements in the Annual Health Check. I know that this can only have come about by a great deal of hard work by everyone across the organisation and I am glad that your teams' efforts have been rewarded by these highly visible and important markers of progress."



DECREASE IN C-difficile CASES

C-difficile infection rates have reduced significantly:

Time-frame	Total cases	Inpatients
Apr – June 2007	206	91
July – Sept 2007	137	67
Oct – Dec 2007	108	47
Jan – Mar 2008	83	50
Apr – June 2008	94	46
July – Sept 2008	50	18

Dr. Angela Shaw, Director of Infection Prevention and Control, at Ashford and St. Peter's comments: "The figures on C-difficile for Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals have shown a really significant reduction. We are particularly pleased with the reduction of our inpatient rate which has reduced by 80% from April-June 2007 to July-September 2008. We realise that although this is good progress we must not become too complacent. Continual efforts are being made in communicating the importance of infection control."

TRUST BOARD APPROVES FIRST DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN FOR FT

On Thursday last week Trust Board members approved the first drafts of the Integrated Business Plan and consultation strategy for Foundation Trust (FT) status and the near final version of the FT Membership Strategy. The Board Seminar was observed as part of the process by two representatives from the Strategic Health Authority. This is one of the requirements for FT status and the observers comments will inform a Board review day further on in the process. If you want to know more about the Trust's plans for FT status please contact Angela Flint on ext 3110 or e-mail her at angela.flint@asph.nhs.uk.

ALL HANDS ON BEDS!! Do your bit for Children in Need

We're supporting
BBC Children in Need!

Charity Bed Push

Saturday 8 November 2008

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Trust

Looking for teams of 5
(4 to push + reserve) to raise (a
lot of) money for Children in
Need

At St Peter's Hospital
8 November
12 noon
Main Out-Patients' Car Park

To register your team and pick
up your sponsorship form
contact:

Melanie Perry on Ext 3652
melanie.perry@asph.nhs.uk

Minimum sponsorship
£100 per team
(£20 per team member)

Barclays support Ashford Hospital

A total of £11,000 was presented by Rachel Ince, Area Corporate Director, Barclays Commercial Bank Heathrow to Aileen McLeish, Chairman of ASPH at Ashford Hospital last Thursday (23 October). The money raised will go to buy equipment for the Chaucer, Wordsworth and Dickens wards.



Did you know?

Lynn Parker - a Deputy Sister/Bereavement Support Nurse at St. Peter's, is presently taking a course in Relational methods in Psychotherapy and Counselling. The course has awarded her funds to support her studies.

The Foundation is a living memorial to Florence Nightingale and raises funds to provide scholarships for nurses and midwives to study at home and abroad, promoting innovations in practice and extending knowledge and skills to meet changing healthcare needs. If you would like to apply for next year, please go to www.florence-nightingale-foundation.org.uk.

FILL IN YOUR STAFF SURVEYS - Your opinions count!

The Staff Survey for 2008 has been distributed. A random sample of 850 staff members have been selected to receive the questionnaire. Once the survey has been completed, the results will be collated by Capita Health Service Partners, who we have commissioned to handle the administration and data gathering of the survey.

We would like to remind you of the importance of the Staff Survey. It is an opportunity for you to have your say on issues that matter to you, whatever they may be. The Trust takes very seriously the views of its staff, and we will take action on the key messages in the survey, as we have done in relation to last year's survey results. By doing so, we improve services for patients and working conditions for staff.

The closing date for questionnaires is Monday 8 December. Do remember - your responses are totally confidential and you cannot be identified by the Trust.

Do take this opportunity and make your opinion count!

Petra Cunningham,
Acting Director of Human Resources

MAJOR INCIDENT Cold Debrief Summary

The cold debrief was held on Wednesday 22 October, just over a month after the exercise was held at 6.00 am on 18th September. The purpose of the cold debrief was to give the main responding areas and departments an opportunity to feedback on the successes of their local response, as well as, highlight any gaps that the exercise had identified, and state what had, or was being done to address these gaps.

There were many successes which included Ashford & St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust, being the first Surrey acute hospital to exercise their Major Incident response in partnership with the Police, Hospital Documentation Team and Casualty Bureau, as well as real media. All treatment areas were set up and operational in time for the arrival of the first casualties - only 30 minutes after the Major Incident Alert message was received in switchboard. Naturally, there were areas for improvement, including, communication, information and patient tracking. It is important that all areas assess the success of their own response and introduce any suitable measures to further improve this, in preparation for a real major incident, or the next exercise.

The importance of holding regular Major Incident exercises was acknowledged, with many presenters suggesting that these full exercises are held every year, so watch this space!

If anyone wants more information regarding Major Incidents or if they would like me to attend their departmental meetings please do not hesitate to contact Jacky Bush on ext 2121 or email jacky.bush@asph.nhs.uk.