

## **Media statement**

4 July 2007

### **Talks agree way forward for all Neighbourhood Teams**

Discussions between Wiltshire PCT's senior managers and staff representatives are continuing to agree a way forward for the roll-out of Neighbourhood Teams.

Senior managers from the PCT sat down with staff representatives on Monday afternoon (Mon 2 July) to discuss the concerns of some staff involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Teams, including existing district nursing and therapy staff. At no point did anyone express concern that staff were being co-erced into new ways of working.

The talks agreed that a regular meeting with Neighbourhood Team members and their co-ordinators should be set up, in order to provide an effective forum for identifying and resolving concerns. Senior managers and staff-side representatives will also attend. The first meeting takes place this afternoon (Wed 4 July), chaired by Jenny Barker, Managing Director of Wiltshire Community Health Services.

Ms Barker said:

"It's clear that we are all completely committed to developing Neighbourhood Teams but we need to make sure that staff concerns are listened to. The meeting tomorrow will provide a forum for staff to articulate their worries and we can then develop an action plan to address these. We want to work with our staff and make sure we support them through the changes, including addressing their anxieties, so I am pleased that we have collectively reached a way forward to resolve outstanding issues together. We remain committed to ensuring that the Neighbourhood Teams across Wiltshire can operate around the clock from October."

Royal College of Nursing and staff-side representative Margaret Williams said:

"The Royal College of Nursing is very pleased that the senior managers of the PCT have listened to the concerns of the staff that were highlighted at Monday's meeting. It is also pleased that they are willing to work together with the staff and the staff reps to resolve the issues in order to move forward. This should ensure a satisfactory outcome for patients and staff as they are totally committed to the ethos of Neighbourhood Teams, as well as the Trust. Union reps would wish to be involved in any further discussions with management to facilitate the smooth running of the transition to nursing in the community."

*-Ends-*

#### **Contact details for further information:**

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