

Members who worked on these comments:

Paula Winchcombe, Kennet District Council
Roy While, Wiltshire County Council

Comments relating to particular standards:

- C1 The Committee accepts that, due to the nature of the illness of some patients, keeping them safe can often pose significant challenges to the Trust. Members are aware that there have been incidents where patients have not been safe, but members are satisfied that any such incident is thoroughly investigated and lessons learned are acted upon.
- C4 The Committee is satisfied that the Trust has addressed its areas of non-compliance with regard to decontamination by appointing a Director whose specific remit is infection prevention and control.
- The Committee was concerned that the Trust had not been compliant in the area of medical devices, especially as so few devices are used in the Trust. Members will seek assurance that the current audit has prompted effective changes in working practice.
- C5 The Committee is concerned that the Trust has previously been unable to declare compliance with the training standard and supports any moves to rectify this and put effective training and reporting procedures in place.
- C6 The Committee has noted, on many occasions, that the Trust works well with other healthcare organisations and social care providers to ensure that appropriate services are commissioned and provided.
- C17 The Committee is satisfied that, when planning and developing services the Trust takes steps to involve patients, carers and the public.

General comments about the Trust:

The Committee has established a good relationship with the Trust over a number of years and commends the honesty and openness with which it conducts itself when tackling potentially controversial issues, such as service change.

The Trust has felt the impact of a breakdown in relations between health and social care providers during 2006, which led to a lack of joined up commissioning. The Committee has made it clear to the organisations concerned that this is not acceptable and members are aware that steps are

being taken to rectify this, and that the intention is to develop a comprehensive commissioning strategy for mental health services.

The Committee is aware that the Trust is expected, by the Department of Health, to attain Foundation status and members look forward to hearing more detail about how this will happen.