

Annual Healthcheck – 2006/07

Royal United Hospital

Members who worked on these comments:

Pat Rugg, Wiltshire County Council
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Comments relating to particular core standards.

- C5 The Trust is trying to keep all evidence that relates to the core standards to improve reporting and the quality of the annual declaration.
- C11 Members are concerned that pressures of work have impacted on staff training, but are satisfied that processes have been put in place to address this with fines being introduced to wards who do not make staff available for training as an incentive to attend.

Members have made a number of general comments which relate to one or more of the core standards.

Members are concerned that reporting procedures within the Trust do not seem to have been robust and that it has not always been able to confirm its compliance with either the core standards or with other guidance, such as NICE. Members are concerned about the effect of this on staff who, while presumably in many cases are hard working and achieving the required standards, are let down by reporting procedures that don't acknowledge this.

If new procedures for records management are or have been implemented, as the Trust has stated, the Committee will look forward to seeing how this in turn impacts on the Trust's declaration and the assessment by the Healthcare Commission.

Members agree that it is of utmost importance for the Trust to be able to demonstrate effectively that it knows what it is achieving.

Following media coverage members continue to be concerned about cleanliness in the hospital and MRSA and other hospital based infections, which have been serious problems at the RUH.

A member who had visited a patient at the RUH had noticed nursing staff failing to use the alcohol rub.

Members have heard that the new Director of Nursing is focussing on cleanliness as a priority.

Delayed transfers of care do happen and the hospital appears to be working with the County Council to ensure that delays relating to social care are dealt with appropriately and quickly.