

Annual Healthcheck – 2006/07

Salisbury Foundation Trust

Members who worked on these comments:

John English, Wiltshire County Council
Mike Griffiths, Wiltshire Patient & Public Involvement Forum
Mike Hewitt, Salisbury District Council
Bill Moss, Wiltshire County Council
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Comments on specific core standards

C1 Through discussions with representatives of the Trust members are confident that reporting lines throughout the Trust are good.

C4 Infection rates inside the hospital are low, mainly because the staff as a whole work as a team to ensure that cleanliness and hygiene regulations are upheld.

The continued maintenance of an in-house cleaning team, despite advice which suggested this work be out-sourced, is fully supported by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for the increased morale and improved outcomes this brings.

C6 Relationships between the Trust and the County Council were strained during 2005 and the early part of 2006 as financial pressures led to an increase in delayed transfers of care and the Trust began to fine the Council. The OSC is satisfied that steps have been taken to resolve this and the fining is no longer happening. The NHS in Wiltshire and the County Council is now working together again to manage patient pathways in the most appropriate manner. The OSC expects this to continue.

C7 The Trust has developed robust quarterly reporting procedures to enable it to assess compliance with the core standards, which should also enable it to robustly manage risks to the organisation.

The Trust is forecasting an underspend which, as a Foundation Trust it is able to keep to reinvest in services. The OSC looks forward to hearing how the Trust intends to invest this money.

General Comments on Salisbury Foundation Trust

The OSC has been made fully aware of how the Foundation status has affected the way the Trust is managed, including the Council of Governors and the wide membership.

The OSC is aware that there are pockets of land on the hospital site which the Trust is planning to redevelop, either to house services or health related organisations, as well as plans to house cancer, paediatrics and maternity in a new building.

The members have asked specific questions about waiting times in A & E and for a number of treatments, which all show a significant and continuing improvement over the last few years.

The OSC is pleased that senior members of the Trust management team spend time in the PALS section, dealing with patient issues and maintaining contact with the front line and the patient experience.

The Trust has a good reputation for not allowing ambulances to stack up at A & E, and this is borne out by comments from the Great Western Ambulance Trust.

The OSC is pleased to see the Trust continuing to do so well and providing excellent services to the people of Wiltshire and beyond. Members regularly hear good feedback from their wards from people who have been treated, or have visited Salisbury hospital.