

Annual Healthcheck - Report to County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Foundation Trust will sign off its core standards declaration at its meeting in May. The recommendation to the Board to be to declare full compliance with the standards, although the decision is one for the Board.

Some key issues during the year:

- The Trust has reduced the number of MRSA from 64 cases in 2006/07 to 21 cases in 2007/08. Although we will not meet our target of 15 cases, this represents a two thirds reduction, and the Board continues to monitor the MRSA action plan on a monthly basis. The Trust is also below its threshold for clostridium difficile cases. To date, the Trust has had 316 cases against a profile of 407.
- The Trust has achieved full accreditation against the Health Quality Service standards, following a 20 month assessment process including on site service reviews. The assessment programme shows that strong patient focused systems are in place, backed up by effective policies, procedures and guidelines. The accreditation is valid until January 2010.
- The Trust's maternity services across all four sites have been awarded the charter mark. The Trust was also named in the "best performing" category in the Healthcare Commission's review of maternity services 2007. The Trust received a rating of 'excellent' in each of the three themes covered. Across the region, the Trust received the highest score for delivering women-centred care.
- The national patient survey placed the Trust in the top 20% of trusts for the quality of patient experience.
- Patient safety continues to feature highly on the Trust's agenda. In our most recent NHS LA clinical negligence scheme for trusts assessment, the Trust achieved level 1 for general services and level 2 for maternity services. We report directly all incident to the national reporting and learning system, managed by the NPSA and are recognised as a high reporter (better performing).
- The Trust has begun the "Seizing the Future" programme to develop its strategic direction over the next five years. The focus is upon achieving high quality clinical standards and outcomes for patients.

Edmund Lovell
Head of Corporate Affairs
31 March 2008