

A monthly update for Nottingham University Hospitals
NHS Trust's key stakeholders

Issue 20 – January 2012

Update on our bid to become an NHS Foundation Trust

The Care Quality Commission reported a number of 'moderate' concerns following a visit to NUH in September 2011. This related to four main areas, including better record keeping, improving accuracy and timeliness of patient assessments and assessment of mental capacity (safeguarding).

We have since received notification that the Department of Health will wait until we can demonstrate improvements in each of these areas before our FT application can progress.

We are still aiming to become authorised in 2012, although the CQC findings mean our application will not progress as quickly as we expected. We can anticipate a further visit from the CQC to check our progress.

The next few months provide us with an opportunity to pull together across the Trust to ensure that patients receive the care that we would wish and that patients have the right to expect. We can and will make the necessary improvements.

For our 14,000 public members who have already signed up to NUH and signalled their commitment and interest in our organisation, we will continue to involve them in our work. We will push ahead with preparatory work for our

Governor elections so we are ready to hold them as soon as we are able to. Anyone who would like to request a Governors' information pack can get in touch with us by emailing ft@nuh.nhs.uk or calling 0115 969 1169 ext 76242.

Help to stop the spread of norovirus in our hospitals

As we continue into the winter flu season, there are many ways that visitors and staff can help to stop the spread of norovirus – better known as the winter vomiting bug – around our hospitals.

Norovirus is the most common stomach bug in the UK, affecting people of all ages.

The virus is highly contagious and causes vomiting and diarrhoea. As there is no specific cure, you have to let it run its course, but it should not last more than a couple of days.

If you get norovirus, make sure you drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration and practise good hygiene to help prevent it from spreading.

Most importantly, people with signs and symptoms should not come into hospital (nor visit patients) to prevent it from spreading.

Norovirus can be unpleasant to experience, but it's not generally dangerous and most people make a full recovery within a couple of days, without having to see a doctor.

For more information visit our website at http://www.nuh.nhs.uk/newsdesk/news_items/2011/12_December/091211.aspx or go to the NHS Choices website at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/introduction.aspx>

Trust on track to make required savings

We remain on track to make £39million savings for this financial year.

Between April and November 2011, we delivered savings of £20.9million against a target of £20.7million. In November, we made £3.5million of savings, against the £3.6million planned.

We know the areas in which we need to give closer attention. For example, we know that building on recent progress we have more work to do to improve the efficiency of our operating theatres and scheduling of elective (planned) operations. In collaboration with theatre staff, we will be accelerating the work in this area.

Infection control update: How are we doing?

There have been six cases of NUH-acquired MRSA bacteraemia since April (Vs maximum target of 10 cases for the year 2011/12).

A review of all NUH-acquired MRSA bacteraemias has highlighted areas for improvement. Learning has been shared with our staff.

By following good practice and learning from these themes, we can ensure we maintain our excellent record for low MRSA rates.

From April to November 2011, there have been 82 cases of NUH acquired C difficile. The target for the financial year is fewer than 158 cases. The Trust therefore remains on target.

The Trust continues to implement measures to reduce the incidence of C difficile infection, including prudent antibiotic prescribing. All cases of C difficile infection are reviewed from a

clinical and surveillance perspective to ensure we are taking appropriate steps to provide the safest and best care for our patients.

Royal recognition for our sustainable hospital food

Prince Charles has praised NUH for our work to improve the sustainability of hospital food.

A reception was hosted by The Prince of Wales at Clarence House for catering teams from hospitals around the country.

NUH Catering Manager John Hughes, Estates Director John Simpson and Dietician Helen Ream were congratulated for their excellent work to improve food in the City Hospital.



The event celebrated the best of British hospital food with 14 of the UK's highest achieving hospital trusts, as identified by the Soil Association.

NUH has increased sustainability since 2003, by working with local farmers for the supply of meat, vegetables and milk. Around 60 per cent of our produce is now purchased from sustainable sources – and it is estimated that this has reduced more than 90,000 food miles.

John Hughes said: "It was an honour to be invited to Clarence House to meet with Prince

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Charles. We're glad that our work to improve sustainability and nutrition is being recognised, but ultimately our aim is to provide the best possible food to the patients in our hospital."

Patients set to benefit from tram extension to the QMC

The project to build lines Two and Three of Nottingham's tram network has been given the go ahead which will make getting to the QMC even easier for patients and visitors.

Line Three will be a 10km route connecting parts of The Meadows, the ng2 site, QMC, the University of Nottingham, Highfields Science Park, Beeston town centre and Chilwell. It will end at a new park and ride site with 1,300 car parking spaces near the A52 close to junction 25 of the M1.

During January and February, initial preparation work will be carried out at the south end of the QMC. Services on the new lines are planned to start in late 2014. The new lines will be funded by Nottingham City Council, the Government, and through a combination of tram fare revenue and a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement.

NET Line One opened in March 2004 and carries approximately 10million passengers a year. More information will follow in future e-updates.

Shaping our new-look internet site for 2012

We are developing a new internet site for our hospitals and we need your help to make sure we get it right first time.

The NUH internet site is one of the most popular local NHS websites in the country. In 2011 the site received hundreds of thousands

of visitors from more than 250 different countries around the world.

During the first six months of 2012 we will be working towards a new website that people can access from anywhere and we need your help to make it work for you.

We want people to spare a few minutes over the coming months to send us their feedback about our ideas.

From February through to April our Digital Communications Manager will be making designs, web pages and interactive tools available online for you to review, use and play with and will be inviting feedback from as many people as possible.

If you would to take part and share your feedback on what works, what doesn't or what you'd like to see feature on our new website please email chris.hughes@nuh.nhs.uk or call 0115 924 9924 ext 62001.

NUH News: new issue 16 Jan

The January/February issue of NUH News, the Trust's bi-monthly newspaper for patients, visitors, members, volunteers and staff will be available online at www.nuh.nhs.uk and in hard copy from 16 January 2012.

For more information or to obtain a copy of this document in another language or format, please contact:
nuhcommunications@nuh.nhs.uk
or 0115 924 9924 ext 63562.

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