

Team Brief

October 2008



Julian Hartley Chief Executive's Report

NHS Performance Ratings

The NHS Performance Ratings 2008 were published last week and our Trust was rated 'excellent' for use of resources and 'fair' for quality. It was pleasing that we scored highly in the areas that are important to patients such as cleanliness, waiting times and access to cancer and heart treatments. You can read more about our performance in the [Staff Bulletin](#).

Nominations Ceremony

I was delighted to present certificates at the Nominations Ceremony last week to recognise staff who were nominated by their colleagues or patients for the Celebrating Success Awards 2008. The winners of the Celebrating Success Awards will be announced at the Celebration Ball on November 7th at the Tower Ballroom. Please note tickets sales are now closed for this event.

Patient Safety Walkabouts

Executive Directors have been undertaking 'Patient Safety Walkabouts' to discuss with patients and staff issues relating to patient safety. These have been extremely informative and enjoyable and will continue as part of our drive to reduce mortality and harms. Key issues so far include:

- Good practice in relation to infection prevention – although we need to ensure that the tape is always used to signal commodes have been thoroughly cleaned.
- The need to ensure that the results and learning from incidents and complaints are fed back to frontline staff in a systematic way which improves practice.
- The need to ensure appropriate staffing levels are maintained at all times.
- The need for senior nursing staff to be highly visible and champion high standards of care and patient safety.

Patient safety is our highest priority and we will continue to monitor progress on the above issues as well as feedback on other issues raised.



Aidan Kehoe Deputy Chief Executive's Report

PAVR

The first Percutaneous Aortic Valve Replacement (PAVR) will be carried out in the Lancashire Cardiac Centre on November 13th. The procedure is carried out jointly by cardiologists and cardiac surgeons

with the support of anaesthetists and radiologists and involves an artificial valve being transported to the heart through a small hole in the groin. The procedure, which will be trialled on 20 patients initially, will offer an alternative to patients who are unsuitable for open heart surgery.

Ward Moves

Ward 6 has closed for refurbishment prior to it becoming the Surgical High Care Unit. This will support the segregation of male and female patients and improve the environment to support infection prevention practices. During the upgrade Ward 9 will be used for surgical patients and suitable medical patients, should need dictate. Ward 6 will reopen on December 14th 2008.

Winter Plan

Due to the Trust's performance over last winter we are not required to submit a formal Winter Plan to the SHA this year, however, the first draft of our internal plan is complete. ADOPs and Divisional Directors are continuing to meet regularly to ensure our plan is as robust as possible. Two health economy meetings have take place so far. Rotas and plans for Social Services, Out of Hours Providers and PCTs are currently being collated.



Mandie Sunderland Director of Nursing and Quality's Report

Infection Update

We have been praised by Health Secretary, Alan Johnson, for our reductions in clostridium difficile. Latest figures show that the number of cases fell from 159 in January-March to 89 in April-June – a reduction of 43%. This was the biggest fall in the North West and the fourth biggest in the country.

Nursing Indicators Conference

We were delighted to host a regional conference on 'Measuring Quality of Nursing Care' which was held in the Lancashire Cardiac Centre earlier this month. The event was attended by nurses from across the UK and the feedback has been extremely positive. Our work in relation to the nursing indicators has been commended in a report by the Nursing Research Unit who described the initiative as "inspirational".



Barry McEwan Director of Facilities' Report

Travel Survey Outcome

Thank you to all staff who took the time to complete the Travel Survey. The results of the survey are being considered by Executive Directors, the JNCC and Staff Car Parking Working Group. Staff can view the results by visiting the Travel Intranet site.

Celebrity Chef Nigel Smith

Celebrity Chef Nigel Smith worked alongside our chefs and catering staff to produce a special menu for patients and staff. Nigel worked with Lloyd Grossman as part of the Better Hospital Food Programme, and was interested to see how the initiative had improved hospital catering. Our hospital chefs worked alongside Nigel and enjoyed the whole experience, whereas Nigel found it challenging having to prepare and produce

nearly 2,000 meals at lunchtime. Particular thanks must go to Mike Bennett and his team including Roy Cooper who took the lead in the kitchen.



Nick Grimshaw Director of Human Resources' Report

Christmas Pay

Staff who are paid monthly will receive their pay on Friday December 19th, Wednesday January 21st and Wednesday February 25th. Those staff who are paid weekly will be paid two weeks pay on Friday December 19th for the weeks ending December 14th and December 21st. They will then be paid on January 2nd for the week ending December 28th. Any adjustments required from the estimated week (week ending December 21st) will be paid on January 9th.

Staff Survey 2008

Thank you to all staff who have completed and returned the Staff Survey, the current response rate is 28.7%. It is really important that these are returned so that we can gain a true representation of what it is like to work for the Trust and make improvements. The "you said, we did" newsletter that details some of the initiatives that resulted from last year's staff survey will be available on the intranet shortly.

National Ban Bullying at Work Day

There will be an information stand in the Dining Room on November 6th, informing staff how bullying can be tackled and managed within the workplace. The event is being held to coincide with national Ban Bullying at Work Day.

National Stress Awareness Day

National Stress Awareness Day takes place on November 5th. Members of the Trust's Stress at Work Project Group, together with Trade Union representatives and colleagues from the HR Directorate, will be visiting each of the hospital sites during the day raising awareness about stress at work and some of the support services available to staff.

Investors in People Accreditation

The Trust is being re-assessed for its Investors in People Accreditation during the week November 24th-28th. The assessors will want to meet with a variety of staff and will be attending some internal training courses that are scheduled as part of their analysis. We would be grateful if staff could be released to meet the assessors as requested.



Dr Paul Kelsey Medical Director's Report

PCR (MRSA) Testing

The Trust has been trialling a new procedure for screening for MRSA which cuts the turnaround time from up to 72 hours to two hours. Following the pilot Executive Directors have agreed to fund this important initiative. This puts us at the forefront of infection prevention initiatives.



Tim Welch Director of Finance's Report

Financial Update

The Trust performed strongly in September and is now £1.7m ahead of its forecast financial plan for the year to date. The Trust is on track to deliver its planned £4.4m surplus for the year. Achieving this surplus is essential if resources are to be available to service our

development plans.

November Team Brief

The next Team Brief will be published on Wednesday November 26th 2008.

Team Brief

Feedback Form ... October 2008

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This feedback form aims to give staff the opportunity to ask any questions about the issues mentioned in this month's Team Brief. All questions raised from this feedback form will be answered in the next edition.

The form can also be used if staff have any items which they would like including in next month's edition.

Name:

Ward/Department:

Hospital site:

Question:

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Please return completed forms to:
Communications Department
Trust Headquarters
Blackpool Victoria Hospital