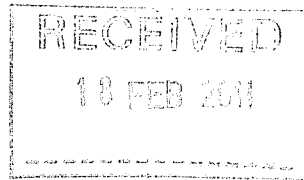


Ursula Ward MSc MA
Chief Executive



Trust Headquarters
F Level, Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Cosham
PORTSMOUTH, PO6 3LY
Tel: 023 9228 6000
Fax: 023 9228 6073

Cllr Lynne Stagg
Chair, Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Customer, Community & Democratic Services
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO1 2AL

17 February 2011

Our ref: UW/AS/dh

Dear Councillor Stagg

Scrutiny review of alcohol-related hospital admissions

Thank you for your letter of 28 January 2011 and enclosed report following the HOSP review of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

You have requested that Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust responds to the recommendations 18-20 and I provide comment for each of these for the Panel's considerations:

Recommendation 18:

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust recognises the importance of the Paddington Alcohol Test and is currently looking at how we can make this part of the Nurse assessment in the Emergency Department. We believe this will deliver greater benefit to the patient as it will involve a face to face discussion as part of a full assessment. The target of 100 referrals a month is one that it is hoped we will deliver by April 2011 and will form part of the alcohol action plan. This will be an added responsibility for the Emergency Department staff and some training has already been delivered. The introduction of the scratch card has not worked as well as hoped when trialled in other health settings, for example pharmacies. However, this is something we continue to support with our partners, and look for improvements.

Recommendation 19:

Since December 2010 the alcohol related assault data collection at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has increased month by month. The Emergency Department reception staff have also received specific training in this. This key issue is also targeted in the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust alcohol action plan and we recognise the importance of data collection and the benefits it can bring to the local health economy.

Recommendation 20:


All reported security incidents are reviewed and discussed at both Clinical Service Centre level and by senior Trust management at its the security steering group, and the Matron for the Emergency Department is a key member. Any serious security incidents are subject to a full investigation. Abuse of staff in the Emergency Department is viewed very seriously, and the Emergency Clinical Service Centre encourages staff to report all abusive incidents so appropriate action is taken.

We thank the HOSP for their full and thorough report and findings on alcohol related hospital admissions. We would comment though that we are disappointed that in the report the Trust is not recognised for the pioneering work of the Alcohol Specialist Nurse Service who ensures the safe alcohol detoxification of on average, 40 patients a month. Most of these patients receive their care and treatment as a hospital outpatient, thus reducing admission into hospital for this type of treatment.

For your update Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is currently considering two research proposals looking at patient outcomes for the treatments and therapies that the Alcohol Specialist Nurse team deliver. We have also actively engaged with partners to help deliver the local alcohol strategy and have set up an alcohol steering group, which is multi agency and aims to pull together and report progress against many of the alcohol strategies and work streams for all patient groups.

The opportunity to comment is valued and I hope that the comments and updates are useful to the Panel.

Yours sincerely



Ursula Ward MSc MA
Chief Executive

Cc: Anthony Quinn
Senior Local Democracy Officer

Jane Di Dino
Scrutiny Support Officer
Customer, Community and Democratic Services
