

Ward revamp for York Hospital

THE NEW 18-bedded haematology and oncology unit is now open at York Hospital.

The new unit accommodates cancer patients who are most vulnerable to infection, and has been designed to include features that help keep the risk to these patients as low as possible.

The unit has controlled access via an air lobby to maintain the air pressure, and has HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filtration throughout. Access is via an intercom system at the entrance to unit.

There are five side rooms, two with changeable air pressure controls and one with isolation facilities, including a gowning lobby to allow staff to put on the appropriate protective equipment before coming into contact with the patient.

Self-contained storage facilities have been built so that equipment and supplies do not need to be brought in from elsewhere in the hospital, helping to keep the risk of infection low.

The development cost around £2.5m. The Trust has invested in staffing for the ward to increase the staffing ratios to those recommended



State of the art: A bay on the new haematology and oncology ward at York Hospital.

nationally for caring for this group of patients.

There is also a relatives' room which has been funded by a bequest, and artwork on the unit and televisions by each bed have also been funded through donations.

Continued on p2...

Accessibility

IF YOU would like to receive YorkTalk in a more accessible format, for example in a larger print size, please contact the chairman and chief executive's office, York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Tel. 01904 631313

E-mail: enquiries@york.nhs.uk

Renal unit celebrates birthday2
Involving our membership3
Inpatient survey results published4



York care respect honesty partnership

Dates for your diary...

June

YorkTalk presentation:
Care Quality Commission
Postgraduate lecture theatre
York Hospital
(date and time tbc)

9 June

The recruitment team are holding a careers event for young people at the hospital. For details, contact recruitmentadmin@york.nhs.uk

1 July

Members' Council meeting
4pm-6pm
(venue tbc)

September

YorkTalk presentation:
Maternity Services
Postgraduate lecture theatre
York Hospital
(date and time tbc)

2 September

Members' Council meeting
4pm-6pm
(venue tbc)

30 September

Open day and AGM
York Hospital
2pm-6pm

December

YorkTalk presentation:
Stroke Services
Postgraduate lecture theatre
York Hospital
(date and time tbc)

Birthday celebrations for York's renal unit

THE HAEMODIALYSIS unit at York Hospital celebrated its tenth birthday on 29 March 2009.

Staff and patients attended the birthday party, which marked over a decade of renal services in York, and the tenth anniversary of the unit's official opening in March 1999.

The unit provides dialysis for patients from York, Selby, Harrogate, Malton, Pickering and surrounding areas.

During haemodialysis, the patient's blood is filtered to remove toxins, excess fluid and waste products.

An 'artificial kidney machine' performs the dialysis. The patients need to come to the unit for dialysis treatment three times a week. Renal services also provides peritoneal dialysis which can be carried out in the patient's home.

Past and present dialysis patients, kidney transplant patients, pre-dialysis patients, and their families all joined the celebrations, along with current and former staff and other people who have been associated with the unit over its lifetime.

York Kidney Patients

Association (YKPA) were also on hand to provide information.

Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate donated a birthday cake to mark the occasion.

Consultant physician Dr David Worth said: "The strength and success of the renal team over the past ten years has been the multi professional nature of its work: doctors, nurses, dieticians, social workers, pharmacists, admin staff, physiotherapist and psychologists all working together with patients and their families to achieve the best possible care."

Ward revamp for York Hospital

Continued from p1...

As the patients on the ward are particularly vulnerable to infection, visiting access will be strictly controlled with no more than two visitors per patient, no outdoor clothing to be taken into the bays, no children under 12 other than in special circumstances and no one to visit who has been unwell until they are clear of

symptoms for 48 hours.

Dr. Martin Howard, consultant haematologist at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Patients in York who have cancer and need admission to the hospital will now be able to have state of the art treatment in a fantastic new facility with dedicated nursing and medical staff."

IN THIS issue of GovernorTalk we meet the four patient/carers governors, and look at some of the work they have been doing to represent the Foundation Trust's members.



ELECTED BY members who are patients and their carers, their aim is to represent views to the governing body and to get responses as appropriate.

Geoffrey Rennie (top left) is vice-chairman of the Members' Council and as a member of the appointments committee has been involved in the appointment of non-executive trust board members.



Brian Thompson (bottom left) is a member of the remuneration committee which recommends payments to non-executive board members. Resident in Helmsley, he puts forward the views of a marginal area served by the

hospital.

Jennifer Moreton (top right) is a member of a group reviewing the Trust's constitution and has a particular interest in infection control.

Jane Farquharson (bottom right) is keen to see the improving experience of patients during their stay in hospital and is involved with the renal patient group.

As these governors cover such a wide area it is important to them to have comments from all members. They can be readily contacted through the membership office at the Trust.



A full list of governors is on page 4.

Involving our membership

A QUESTIONNAIRE was included with a previous issue of YorkTalk asking members which hospital services were of particular interest to them, with the aim of using these details to plan events for specific interest groups.

Some work has already begun on this, with two events planned for members.

All members who expressed an interest in bereavement services have been invited to attend an event in May to hear about plans for the bereavement suite and to meet the nurse-led team who are taking the project forward. The project, supported by The Kings Fund, aims to provide a dedicated service within the hospital for the bereaved and their families, in a space which is well designed and sensitive to everyone's needs.

A second event is being held in July for people who said that they were interested in cancer services. Those attending will meet staff who work in cancer services and hear about the latest developments at the hospital.

We hope to hold similar events in other service areas over the coming year.

Wednesday 30 September 2009 will be the date of the next open day at York Hospital.

Following the success of last year's event, we will be inviting the public to learn more about who we are and what we do. We hope to offer interactive display stands, 'behind the scenes' tours of selected hospital departments and a range of presentations about the work of the trust, including the Trust's Annual General Meeting.

APPOINTED GOVERNORS	
NHS Yorkshire and York: 3 seats	
Mr Michael Sweet, non-executive director	
General Practitioner—tbc	
Gill Cashmore, chief officer, Selby AVS	
City of York Council : 3 seats	
Cllr Madeleine Kirk	
Cllr Sandy Fraser	
Cllr Sian Wiseman	
North Yorkshire County Council: 2 seats	
Cllr Elizabeth Casling	
Cllr Caroline Patmore	
University of York Medical School: 1 seat	
Vacant	
Voluntary Sector: 1 seat	
Mr Mike Moran, Chairman, York CVS	
NOMINATED GOVERNORS	
Patient and Public Governors: 17 seats	
Patient/ Carer	Geoffrey Rennie
	Jane Farquharson
	Brian Thompson
	Jennifer Moreton
Public: City of York	James Porteous
	Linda Hatton
	Paul Baines
	Bob Towner
	Stephen Lewis
	Stefan Ruff
	Helen Mackman
	Winifred Blackburn
Public: Selby District	Nevil Parkinson
	Patrick McGowan
	Robert Thomas
Public: Hambleton District	Pam Turpin
	Jane Dalton
Staff governors: 5 seats	
Staff: medical	Lee Bond, consultant haematologist
Staff: nursing	Anne Penny, bed manager
	Kate Harper, deputy chief nurse
Staff: non-clinical	Mandy McGale, head of patient flow
Staff: clinical professional	Martin Skelton, senior biomedical scientist

Inpatient survey results

THE FINDINGS from the Inpatient Survey 2008 for York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Patients who stayed at least one night in York Hospital during summer 2008 were given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire about their experiences.

The survey highlights a number of positive findings, with the Trust achieving either average or better than average performance in comparison with other hospitals on all of the overarching areas looked at by the survey.

The Trust was rated as performing significantly better than average on a number of key areas, including same-sex accommodation, communication between patients and doctors, hand washing for doctors, questions relating to operations and procedures, and questions relating to being discharged from hospital.

Libby McManus, Chief Nurse at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said:

“Of course we are pleased with the findings

of the survey, as it is important to us that patients have confidence in our services and the standard of care we provide while they are in hospital. We use patient feedback, as well as information from our governors and members, to help to prioritise the issues that are most important to patients.

“We also know that there is room for improvement, and we are already working towards addressing the areas highlighted by the survey.

“For example, whilst still better than average in relation to mixed-sex accommodation, we realise that issues of privacy and dignity are fundamental for patients and we need to pay constant attention to detail in this area.

“There is a national campaign to ensure that men and women will not have to share sleeping areas, bathrooms or toilets when admitted to hospital, and we were successful in bidding for funding which we are using to improve signage to clearly designate single-sex toilets and bathrooms for patients on our wards.”

International women's day

GOVERNORS JANE Farquharson and Caroline Patmore attended an event as part of International Women's Day to promote the Foundation Trust and recruit additional members.

The event, which took place on 9 March at the Riley Smith's Hall in Tadcaster, has been going on a number of years and brings together local women to network and to promote their businesses and talents.

The governors found the event

enjoyable and worthwhile, and were able to sign up 35 new members. Caroline Patmore said:

“The more people who are encouraged to take up this membership, then the more people, it is hoped, will feel at ease if they ever need treatment in our hospital. If they really feel they want to play a more active part in the organisation, with the knowledge from York Talk, they may feel able to put themselves up for election as future governors.”

Got a story

Contact the communications service manager, York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE:

- Telephone: (01904) 721417