West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

Agenda Item: 78/08

Public Board Meeting, 24 April 2008

Public Health – Update on Strategy Implementation

Presented by: Professor Graham Ramsay Medical Director

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper outlines the approach being taken by the Trust to ensure that public health, and the national agenda of reducing health inequalities, are being taken forward. It provides details of the data already being collected in relation to public health activities and the areas where further development is needed. Finally, the paper makes recommendations to the Board in relation the level of compliance with regard to Standards for Better Health (Core Standards C20a, C22a & c, C23).

2 Background

2.1 In February 2008 the Board approved the Public Health Strategy, which established a framework through which the Trust's contribution to both the local and national health inequalities agenda, (in relation to health outcomes) can be taken forward.

2.2 The requirement to have a Trust Public Health Strategy has been driven by the need to comply with standards C20a of Standards for Better Health. Having the strategy in place provides the structure to deliver the requirements of C22a & c and C23, as well as ensuring that the Trust plays a full and active role in ensuring that patients are provided with appropriate public health advice and onward referral if needed to relevant services. The Public Health Strategy also provides a focus for the various activities that have been, and continue to be developed internally to improve staff well being.

2.3 The Trust has established a Public Health Forum, in association with the West Hertfordshire PCT to take forward the implementation of the strategy, ensuring compliance with Standards for Better Health and relevant NICE guidance.

3 Implementing the Strategy

3.1 Following the agreement by the Board in February 2008 to approve the Public Health Strategy, a joint Trust/PCT Public Health Forum (the Forum) was established. Appendix A provides the draft terms of reference. At its first meeting on 12 March 2008 it was agreed that the initial focus of attention would be on obesity, smoking and self harm as it was felt that these areas

would have the biggest impact on patients: The actions that will be taken forward from within these priority areas will ensure that the Trust is compliant with the NICE public health guidance for these particular areas

3.2 Much of this is primarily focussed on the delivery of patient services. However, it needs to be recognised that we have to ensure that we are also tackling the public health needs of our staff. Appendix B sets out the current staff well being initiatives already in place, or planned. In addition, the Trust has recently applied to become a Fit For Business site which will provide work place champions to encourage staff to set achievable goals in healthier living and lifestyles. This is free to the Trust and shows added commitment to ensuring the health and work/life balance of our staff is important.

3.3 In order to support the strategy, and provide evidence and assurance that its implementation is being effective, relevant data needs to be provided. Appendix C sets out the key data sets as proposed in the strategy and whether or not data is already available. What this demonstrates is that, whilst there is some data collected routinely, a more comprehensive data capture process needs to be developed. One of the strands of work for the Forum is to ensure that there is a comprehensive data set for public health related data. This will be able to support future declarations under Standards for Better Health as well as providing evidence for the wider public health work across the health economy.

3.4 In addition to the data already collected, the Trust has data provided by the PCT for referrals to smoking cessation services. These are currently very low and is a key target area for work. Since January 2008 there have been 21 referrals to the service compared to a smaller number than this for the period April to December 2007. These numbers have been achieved because of more targeted arrangements having been put in place for referrals to the PCT services. It is anticipated that these will increase significantly over the coming months.

3.5 The Trust has also been running a service with Turning Point, a charity supporting people with drug and alcohol problems. The service is only currently available at Watford. Data below shows the details of the numbers of people supported by this project. What has been evident is a reduction in the number of “revolving door” patients coming into hospital via the A&E department. This service is having a major impact on ensuring that people with drug and alcohol problems (and the many associated social issues) are being picked up by an appropriate service provider and linked into services that can support them once they have been discharged from the hospital. Consideration is being given to how this service could be developed further.

Table: Referrals to Turning Point

	2007	Jan 08	Feb 08	March 08
how many referral received by service	**194**	**16**	**25**	**19**
how many have engaged in the service	**145**	**10**	**11**	**9**
how many have been referred on to other services	**105**	**7**	**11**	**9**
brief intervention information	**58**	**5**	**10**	**7**

4. Standards for Better Health – 2007/08 Declaration

4.1 The Trust has historically failed to declare compliance with the core standards C20a ,C2a & c and C23. This year, with the approval of the Public Health Strategy by the Board, the establishment of the Forum and the on going work with local partnership groups in the Local Authority areas a significant step forward has been made. However, of itself having the Strategy in place is insufficient to declare compliance.

4.2 Core standard C23 requires the Trust to provide evidence of the collection, analysis and sharing of data about patients and services, including with its commissioners, to influence health needs assessments and strategic planning to improve the health of the community served. It is not possible at this time to be able to declare that this is in place as insufficient evidence exists to support such a declaration. Given the current embryonic development of the public health agenda within the Trust it is not considered that the all of the core public health standards could be considered fully compliant at this time.

5 Recommendation

5.1 The Board is asked to

- note the current position in relation to the implementation of the Public Health Strategy and the priority areas agreed by the Forum
- agree that the Standards for Better Health declaration in respect of core standards C20a and C23 should be shown as non compliant

Graham Ramsay
Medical Director
April 2008

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

APPENDIX A

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM

Status:	Trust Group
Chair:	Associate Director, Integrated Governance
Membership:	Deputy Medical Director Associate Medical Director, Clinical Governance Medical Division Surgical Division Clinical Support Division Women and Childrens Division Head of Clinical Governance and Risk West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust
Frequency of Meetings:	Bi-monthly
Quorum:	Five

1. Remit

1.1 The purpose of the Public Health Forum will be to ensure the implementation of the agreed Public Health Strategy, ensuring that it remains up to date and in line with national guidance and locally agreed priorities. The Forum will establish relevant short life groups to facilitate the implementation of the strategy, including any changes in practice required.

2. Accountability

2.1 The Forum will report directly to the Clinical Standards Executive.

3. Organisational Relationships

3.1 The Chair of the Forum will maintain a direct link from the Forum to the Medical Director.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 To provide the organisational over-view of public health and advise the Trust on actions necessary to ensure compliance with national

requirements, including NICE Guidance, Annual Health Check, Standards for Better Health

4.2 To work in collaboration with the West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust to ensure that the local public health strategies focus on the national and local priorities

4.3 To implement the agreed Public Health Strategy and report regularly on its implementation to the Clinical Standards Executive

5. Reporting Arrangements

5.1 To report to the Clinical Standards Executive on the implementation of that strategy, progress being made and barriers to delivery

5.2 To develop a reporting framework to ensure that the Trust is achieving compliance with all relevant statutory requirements and where feasible, good practice guidelines in respect of the areas covered by the Forum.

5.3 To regularly submit a summary of the issues discussed and actions agreed to the Clinical Standards Executive.

4.4 An Annual Report will be prepared and submitted to the Clinical Standards Executive for consideration.

Reviewed, and recommended to the Clinical Standards Executive on 12 March 2008

Ratified by the Clinical Standards Executive on April 2008

To be reviewed in March 2009

Appendix B

WEST HERTFORDSHIRE STAFF SUPPORT/WELL BEING ACTIVITIES

Childcare support

The Trust currently provides the following:

	Approximate usage
On-site nursery at Watford General Hospital	28
On-site nursery at St Albans City Hospital	15
Childcare voucher scheme	60
Salary sacrifice scheme for workplace nurseries	4
Bi-monthly childcare information sessions	5 (average)

- Subsidies available at certain local holiday playschemes
- Maternity interviews and childcare information for all mat leavers
- Childcare support available at all times from the Trust's Childcare Co-ordinator

General Staff Support

Staff are able to self-refer to either Rickmansworth or St Albans **Counselling Services** for up to 5 private counselling sessions

The Trust is currently looking into providing an extensive **Employee Assistance Programme**, which will provide a telephone helpline in addition to the counselling services.

In light of the changes that the Trust is currently undergoing, a series of half-day workshops entitled '**Coping with Change'** was set up by an external HR Consultancy to support staff through the transitional period.

Last year the Trust developed a one-day **pre-retirement course**, which has been extremely popular. Covering all aspects of retirement from the challenges faced, financial matters, to the social side, these courses are on going and will be held every few months.

Some half-day sessions on **mid-term planning/pensions awareness** were also set up last year and will probably be held on an annual basis.

An **Employee Support Guide** has been put together, providing information on all sources of support in relation to their work.

Yoga classes for staff were set up some while back at lunchtime on a weekly basis, but due to lack of support, these have not continued.

Local health clubs recently visited the Trust, offering free **health checks** to staff.

The **Long Service Awards** were reintroduced last year and all staff with over 25 years service were invited to the staff event and presented with a small gift. The awards will continue this year for those with 15 years + service and thereafter staff will be recognised for their loyalty on an annual basis.

A series of lunchtime talks on various topics has been set up under the umbrella of **Staff Well-Being** and include the following:

Exploring Parenting for Teenagers
Money Management
Balancing parenthood and work
Relationships
Managing Stress
The Menopause
Back pain
Men's Health (dependant on feedback from male staff)