

JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION - UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This meeting will be attended by Dr Stephen Fowle, Medical Director at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust. The Joint Committee requested that the Trust return to update members on progress on the Trust's tackling of Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI), following attendance at the March 2008 meeting. Members were particularly interested in the progression of initiatives such as the deep clean programme and visitors' code.

2 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Committee is requested to consider the information provided within this report, together with that provided by the presentation from Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, and make recommendations as necessary.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In August 2007 Nottingham University Hospitals Trust (NUH) had invited the Department of Health Improvement Programme Review team to assess the work of the Trust in tackling Health Care Acquired Infections. Following feedback from the Department of Health, the NUH Trust Board agreed an action plan for tackling HCAI. The issue of tackling HCAI at NUH was first brought to the Committee in December 2007.
- 3.2 The Committee's request for a report back from the Trust in April 2008 on the progress made against their action plan was brought forward to March 2008 to enable the Committee to incorporate the latest situation into their commentary on the Trust's performance against Core Standard C04 (infection control) of the Annual Health Check.
- 3.3 An extract from the minutes of the meeting of the March 2008 meeting of the Joint Committee is attached at Appendix 1 for information. Members may wish to focus their areas of questioning in relation to the issues raised in these minutes and the presentation to be provided by Dr Stephen Fowle. Key issues of concern were the deep clean programme and visitors' code.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 – Extract from the minutes of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2008.

5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Reports to and minutes of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee held on 11 December 2007.

Reports to and minutes of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2008.

6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

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30 January 2009



**JOINT CITY AND COUNTY
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

EXTRACT FROM THE M I N U T E S

of meeting held on **11 MARCH 2008** at the
Council House from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Nottingham City Councillors

- ✓ Councillor Liversidge (Chair)
- Councillor Akhtar
- ✓ Councillor Aslam
- ✓ Councillor Dewinton
- ✓ Councillor Heppell
- Councillor Johnson
- Councillor Newton
- Councillor Spencer

Nottinghamshire County Councillors

- ✓ Councillor Winterton (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Cutts
- Councillor Dobson
- Councillor Lally
- Councillor Lodziak
- Councillor Sykes
- ✓ Councillor Tsimbiridis
- ✓ Councillor Wombwell

✓ indicates present at meeting

Also in Attendance

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Ms K Caston | - | East Midlands Specialised Services Commissioning Team | |
| Director | | | |
| Ms C Ziane-Pryor | - | Committee Administrator |) Nottingham |
| Ms N Barnard | - | Overview and Scrutiny Team Leader |) City Council |
| Ms K Pocock | - | Overview and Scrutiny |) |
| Mr M Garrard | - | Scrutiny Officer |) Nottinghamshire |
| | | |) County Council |
| Mrs S Smith | - | Deputy Director of Infection Control |) Nottingham |

		and Patient Safety)	University
Hospitals				
Mr M Braden	-	Deputy Director of Estates and Facilities))	Trust
Dr S Fowlie	-	Medical Director)	
Dr J Rixom	-	Consultant in Public Health Medicine)	Nottingham City
)	Primary Care
Trust				
Ms B Venes	-	Forum Member)	Patient and Public
)	Involvement
Forum				

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60 HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION – UPDATE

(a) Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny – Nottingham City Council

RESOLVED that the report of the Head of Overview and Scrutiny of Nottingham City Council, copies of which had been circulated, be noted.

(b) Report of Nottingham University Hospitals Trust

Further to minute 40(b) dated 11 December 2007, consideration was given to a report of Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on the progress made in reducing the number of Health Care Associated Infections (HCAI).

The report, presented by Dr Fowlie, Medical Director, informed the Committee of the comments made by Sally Brown, Portfolio Manager, Healthcare Associated Infection Improvement Programme, Department of Health, in reference to the Trust's response to proactively tackling HCAI.

Dr Fowlie highlighted the overall success of the Trust in dramatically reducing the rates of HCAI.

Members welcomed the continued progress and congratulated the Trust on the achievements to date but raised concerns that increased hand washing and use of cleansing detergents were causing dermatitis for some staff.

In response to the questions and comments of the Committee, Dr Fowlie replied as follows:-

- regarding the transfer of MRSA through contact with materials such as bed curtains, nursing staff, having washed their hands, were instructed to move directly to the patient without touching any objects. However, the use of fabrics containing silver thread to combat infection transfer could be further investigated;
- although four serious cases of MRSA had been identified, there was no clear figure for cases where MRSA was present with other infections;

- the dermatology department of the hospital had reported that it was not clear if the increased cases of staff dermatitis were a result of the additional hand washing or an allergy to the detergent. However, hand washing procedures had been revised;
- a deep clean of wards, followed by a programme of maintained hygiene, was expected to remain effective for a minimum of 8-12 months;
- new commode cleaning procedures were in place where tape across the commode identified that it had been cleaned and by whom but it could not be used again until the matron was satisfied that it was clean and had signed the tape. In addition, the sluices were to be re-designed to enable improved cleaning;
- there was to be a review and audit on how and when waste was removed from all areas;
- infection prevention and control responsibilities were now included in job specifications for all staff who, overall, felt empowered by their valued contribution in identifying gaps in the cleaning processes. It was predicted that, with staff taking ownership of the cleanliness of wards and seeing that their views were valued and acted upon, the initiative would prove sustainable;
- the visitors code, which would present expectations of visitors by the Trust and what visitors could expect in return, was expected to be available in the Spring and, while visitors were included in the hand hygiene drive, they were not specifically invited to contribute with hygiene gap reporting;
- visiting hours and the number of visitors per patient were to be restricted in some wards, especially high risk, in an effort to limit the risk of imported infection. Children's wards were to be an exception.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Committee's congratulations to the Trust be recorded regarding the progress made in reducing Health Care Associated Infections;**
- (2) that Nottingham University Hospitals Trust be requested:-**
 - (a) to keep the Committee informed of the progression of initiatives, such as the deep clean programme and visitors' code;**
 - (b) to submit a progress report to this Committee in twelve months time.**