

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

Questions put to Mark Devlin, Chief Executive and Iris Smith, Director of Infection Control, Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust.

1. Can you tell the Committee how the Trust has responded to the recent Healthcare Commission report on Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust?
2. Can you tell the Committee the purpose and results of the Trust's policy of holding daily Infection Control Team meetings?
3. Can you tell the Committee whether the Trust's redecoration and deep cleaning programme is made more expensive to deliver by the terms of the Trust's Private Finance Initiative contract?
4. Can you tell the Committee more about the Trust's recently-announced policy of screening for MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) all elective patients as a matter of routine on admission – which no other Trust has apparently ever done?
5. Can you tell the Committee what the Trust is doing to reassure the public that Darent Valley Hospital is a safe place to receive treatment?
6. Can you tell the Committee how the Trust is addressing the HAI risks associated with hospital visiting?

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Questions put to Glenn Douglas, Interim Chief Executive and Amy Page, Chief Nurse.

1. Can you tell the Committee why the *Clostridium difficile* outbreak in the Trust's three hospitals during October 2005 to March 2006 was not even noticed by the Trust (as stated in the recent Healthcare Commission report on the Trust)?
2. Can you tell the Committee how it came about that some nurses working for the Trust thought it was acceptable practice to tell patients with *C difficile* to soil their beds (as stated in the recent Healthcare Commission report on the Trust)?
3. Can you tell the Committee whether the Trust is ensuring that there is a space of at least 3.6 metres between the centres of hospital beds, as recommended in the NHS Estates guidance document *Infection control in the built environment – design and planning (2002)*, which is referred to in the recent Healthcare Commission report on the Trust?
4. Can you tell the Committee how the Trust intends to spend the £350,000 of additional funding that is being made available to it by the Department of Health in order to implement the "deep clean" of hospitals announced by the Prime Minister in September 2007?
5. Can you tell the Committee whether (following comments in the recent Healthcare Commission report) the Trust is now taking proper account of issues

arising from complaints raised through the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) and the Independent Complaints and Advocacy Service (ICAS)?

6. Can you tell the Committee what the Trust has done to ensure that:
 - doctors complete death certificates appropriately in respect of HAIs;
 - case notes / patient records are properly filled out and archived;
 - the Stoke Mandeville classification is properly used in assessing the likelihood that C difficile has contributed to the deaths of particular patients?
7. Can you tell the Committee what the Trust is doing to reassure the public that its hospitals are safe places to receive treatment?
8. Can you tell the Committee how the Trust is addressing the HAI risks associated with hospital visiting?

East Kent Hospitals Trust

Questions put to Matthew Kershaw, Chief Operating Officer, Julie Pearce, Director of Nursing and Sue Roberts, Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control.

1. Can you tell the Committee more about the correspondence submitted to the Committee by Julian Brazier MP, containing complaints about the standard of cleanliness at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital – and how this relates to the self-assessment of “Good” returned for the hospital under the Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) process in 2006?
2. Can you tell the Committee more about the report submitted to the committee by the Patient and Public Involvement Forum (PPIF) for East Kent Hospitals, regarding the PPIF’s audit of the use of alcohol hand-rub gel in the Trust’s hospitals?
3. Can you tell the Committee what the Trust is doing to reassure the public that its hospitals are safe places to receive treatment?
4. Can you tell the Committee how the Trust is addressing the HAI risks associated with hospital visiting?

Medway NHS Trust

Questions put to Jacqueline McKenna, Director of Nursing and Strategic Planning and Linda Dempster, Head of Infection Control.

1. Can you tell the Committee whether MONITORS recent decision to defer its decision on the Trusts application for Foundation Trust status is due to concerns about issues relating to infection control (as indicated in the local press) – and if so how the Trust intends to address these issues?
2. Can you tell the Committee whether the Norovirus outbreaks at the hospital indicate continued shortcomings in infection control?

3. Can you tell the Committee why the Trust failed to return any surveillance data in respect of MRSA for 2001–2 to the HPA – despite the Trust being obliged to submit this data?
4. Can you tell the Committee why there seems to be a perception in some quarters that the Medway Maritime Hospital has a bad record in relation to MRSA. Whether this is connected to the 13 MRSA-associated deaths there in 2002 (the fourth highest figure among hospitals in England and Wales), reported by the Office for National Statistics in 2004 – and the closure of a ward at the hospital in October 2004, following two MRSA-associated deaths?
5. Can you tell the Committee why the Trust returned a “Not met” declaration in respect of Core Standard C04a (relating to infection control systems) for the 2006–7 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check?
6. Can you tell the Committee what the Trust is doing to reassure the public that Medway Maritime Hospital is a safe place to receive treatment?
7. Can you tell the Committee how the Trust is addressing the HAI risks associated with hospital visiting?