

CITY HOSPITALS SUNDERLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS WORKSHOP

Minutes of the joint workshop held between the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors on Friday, 16 December 2005, in the Education Centre, Sunderland Royal Hospital

Present: Mr S Blenkinsop (SB)
Mrs B Blythe (BB)
Mr L H Boobis (LHB)
Mr K W Bremner (KWB)
Mr B Charlton (BC)
Mr D Clifford (DC)
Mr A Galley (AG)
Mr D P Graham (DPG) (Chairman)
Mrs C Harries (CH) (Company Secretary)
Mr B Kilmurray (BK)
Mr D McNicholas (DMc)
Mr R Neville (RN)
Mr K Richardson (KR)
Mrs C S Ringrow (CSR)
Cllr E Timmins (ET)
Mr I Tunnicliffe (IT)

Apologies: Mr T Belmont (TB)
Ms K J Brown (KJB)
Mrs A Clay (AC)
Mr B Crosbie (BC)
Mr K Hinshaw (KH)
Mrs Y Johnson (YJ)
Mr D Robson (DR)
Mrs K Straughair (KS)
Mrs M Usher (MU)
Mrs W Westmorland (WW)

In Attendance: Mr G W Hood (GWH)

Item 1 Alcohol Free Zone

GWH presented the report which looked to identify specific alcohol free zones across the site.

ET commented that most of the incidents seemed to occur whereby alcohol had been consumed off site and individuals came onto the site. He stated that it was very difficult to make an open hospital site secure. BC stated that his council ward was one of the first Local Authority areas to implement alcohol free zones and people need the authority and mandate to be able to confiscate the alcohol. KR

queried as to who would carry out the enforcement and why not a total alcohol free zone.

BB queried as to how the security staff felt about having to potentially implement the policy. GWH replied that they feel more empowered with the policy as backup as in their view it is the threat of an individual losing the alcohol that is more of a deterrent. BB also queried as to how many security staff were on site at any one time. GWH replied that there was one member of staff in the main office and two other staff at any one time. He also advised that we have a police presence in A/E at weekends for which we pay £24k.

IT queried as to whether we were not going to penalise the normal citizen who may like a glass of wine with his meal and if there were problems why did we not bring in the police anyway. The Chairman replied that whilst he understood the concerns there was a sense that many Governors felt the need to put in a blanket approach with some exceptions.

ET commented that the initial concept was for those people demonstrating anti-social behaviour. The Chairman stated that perhaps GWH should look at the policy again and come back with some revised wording.

Resolved: To amend the wording and bring back to a future meeting.

Item 2 Electronic Tagging

GWH presented the report and stated that he was not seeking approval of the cost as further work and negotiation was required but rather to the principle of implementing the system. He explained that the main reason for potentially introducing the system was for patient safety. AG queried as to what would happen if a patient did not want to be tagged. GWH replied that a patient could not be tagged against their will but for those patients who could not give informed consent then the conversation with relatives would be documented. KR queried as to whether it would be a GPS systems. GWH replied that it possibly might.

RN queried as to whether it was possible to see a reduction in the costs. GWH explained that discussions were ongoing and as the majority of the site was convened for the staff attack system it would be helpful if the tagging system could be piggybacked onto that.

Resolved: To agree in principle to the introduction of an electronic tagging system.

Item 3 Smoke Free Hospital

LHB presented the report to make the Hospital site smoke free from 8 March 2006. SB suggested that the Trust needed to use the media and be positive and pro-active about implementation.

BC queried as to how we would stop patients from walking outside to smoke. DMcN queried as to what would happen to those patients who had an addiction. LHB stated that it would be about identifying those patients and offering them NRT.

KWB commented that Gateshead Hospitals and the Freeman had both become smoke free and had been well supported by the media. KR stated that he was fully supportive of the policy.

IT stated that the Mental Health Trust envisaged that some patients would receive exemption and queried as to whether if they were admitted with an acute problem would that exemption apply. LHB replied that this would be on a case-by-case basis and if there were a need to allow a patient to smoke this would be preferably outdoors and out of sight of other patients. IT stated that some patients were detained under the Mental Health Act and would have to be supervised.

LHB also stated that it may be necessary to ask patients to sign a disclaimer if patients were going outside the perimeter to smoke.

Resolved: To adopt the policy.

**D P Graham
Chairman
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust**