



Patient and Public Involvement in Health

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust Patient & Public Involvement in Health (PPIH) Forum Discharge Project 2006 update

Mike Lappin (Forum member)

The Stockport NHS Foundation Trust PPIH Forum has been in existence since 1st January 2004. The Forum has been formed to put patients at the heart of decision-making in the NHS. The Forum is a statutory body which has a number of duties and powers. The role of the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust PPIH Forum is to:

- ∞ Monitor and review the services provided by the Trust
- ∞ Invite views of patients, users, and carers about those services
- ∞ Write reports and suggest recommendations about services to the Trust
- ∞ The Forum has the power to inspect hospital premises, if and when such a need arises

The Forum received a number of concerns from members of the public regarding poor discharge of patients from Stepping Hill Hospital at the beginning of 2006. Many Forum members also confirmed this as their relatives' experienced poor discharge.

Examples of the concerns are:

- ∞ Patients being discharged at 3am in the morning.
- ∞ Patients being sent home in a taxi, with no facilities being checked at home.

The Forum agreed to look into this matter in January 2006. In March 2006, the Forum requested a meeting with The Stockport NHS Foundation Trust representatives regarding the discharge procedure followed by the Trust. This was delivered by Chris Gidley, (Assistant Director of Nursing for Quality) and Sharon Brierley (Modern Matron, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust).

In August 2006 the Forum agreed to put together a questionnaire on discharge which will follow the discharge process from the admission of a patient through to the patient being discharged. However the Forum came into difficulty as there are many clinicians, nurses and specialists on the Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDT) who look after a patient. A questionnaire which asks each team member questions on discharge would be very difficult to carryout with their busy schedules.

In September 2006 the Forum agreed to work with the Trust and Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on compiling a questionnaire which will hopefully identify information on how to improve the discharging of patients. A meeting has been scheduled for 3rd October 2006 to do this.

The Stockport Primary Care Trust PPIH Forum has also discussed this and will be writing to the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust on the matter.

Support for PPIH provided by Gaddum Centre, Gaddum House, 6 Great Jackson Street, Manchester M15 4AX

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