

Report on the Meeting of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust on 30th September 2015

The meeting started with the presentation of the Organisational risk profile which showed that the top risks were having the right number and calibre of staff, the introduction of the new Patient Administration System and the delivery of the financial plan. The Audit Committee had reviewed the profile.

The Quality Performance Report showed that the mortality rate was being monitored closely with a view to improving the mortality ratios. The form of the report was being improved and this was ongoing. Under the safe staffing requirements the Trust had reported a 97.7% fill rate to Unify for July. It was felt that in future Trusts may have to have less staff than required by the rule book if they can provide a safe system. More feedback was needed from patient experience.

From the Quality Committee Report we were advised that the large number of nurses who were approaching retirement was causing concern and plans needed to be in place to manage this. When children are taken into care they need to be medically checked within 28 days but with the number rising to 6 a day in August targets were being missed. They were working with the County to improve the situation. Some staff were suffering from stress but the level of sickness absence was better than other Trusts.

On Infection Control It was indicated that hand hygiene was good. There had been 3 cases of C Difficult and 8 cases of MSSA in August. There had also been 21 cases of E Coli but only 2 had come from in patients for more than 3 days.

In the Financial Report the Director of Finance reported that August had been a disappointing month in that they were in a deficit situation when they had planned to have a surplus each month. There were 4 million pounds away from the plan with the amount spent on nurses having not come down in accordance with the plan however there was a scheme to get it back on track. In August there had not been much movement in reducing the number of temporary staff.

With the Workforce Report they had found that the main reason why staff left was culture change so they were trying to change values and behaviour. They were holding their own on statutory at 84% but recruiting remained a problem with efforts being made to recruit staff from the Philippines, India and Portugal. The retention problem is a national one and further problems had arisen over the issue of visas to recruits from outside the EU.

David Pepler

23rd November 2015

