



16 October 2009

Julie Burgess  
Chief Executive  
Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Wexham Park Hospital  
Wexham  
Slough  
Berkshire  
SL2 4HL

Also by email to: [julie.burgess@hwph-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:julie.burgess@hwph-tr.nhs.uk)

Dear Julie,

**Third party Commentary for the 2009 Core Standards Declaration -  
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Bracknell Forest's Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel have the following comments to make in respect of the Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust's Core Standards Declaration to the Care Quality Commission for the first six months of 2009/10.

Due to the wide range of health services delivered by the Trust, limitations on Councillors' time, and the number of organisations within the Committee's purview, we have necessarily confined our comments to a small number of discrete issues.

General Observations

The Panel are appreciative of your stated intention to be open and proactive with our Panel, but we were disappointed that you chose not to give the Panel advance notice of the recent announcement of 157 redundancies by the Trust, which we only learnt about through the press. We request that Members are given a periodic briefing from the Trust on all major issues and that we are advised of issues arising in advance of formal notification on significant issues. You will no doubt be aware of the existing protocol between our two organisations that covers such issues.

Domain 3, Governance, C7:

- a) The Panel has been greatly concerned with the Trust's budgetary predicament, but were reassured at our last meeting that this was being robustly tackled by the Trust and its new Finance Director. We indicated we would ask for regular updates on the Trust's financial position.
- b) The Panel are concerned about what effect the 157 planned redundancies at the Trust will have on patient care. It is virtually impossible to see that clinical care will

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Bracknell Forest Council, Easthampstead House, Town Square, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1AQ  
T: 01344 352000 Minicom: 01344 352045 [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

not suffer from losing such a large proportion of staff. As stated by this Core Standard, financial management should achieve economy it should also achieve effectiveness in the use of resources, and this is threatened by the redundancies.

- c) On the publication of Board agenda and minutes, we note that the Trust has not maintained their web site in regard to publication of minutes since 2008.

Domain 4, Patient Focus, C13:

- a) The Panel disagree with the Trust's car parking charges and note that this is being pursued by a working group of the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Panel would also welcome an indication of how the Trust will review its current policy on car park charges in the light of the Minister of State for Health's recent announcement on restricting these charges.
- b) The Panel are not wholly satisfied with the provision of car parking spaces at Heatherwood Hospital and suggest that the Trust consider approaching Ascot Racecourse with a view to accessing their adjoining car parking spaces.

Domain 6, Care Environment and Amenities, C20/1:

- a) The Panel suggest that the Trust carry out an overall review of use of space at Heatherwood Hospital, with a view to make more space available for health provision.
- b) From direct personal experience of the inadequate changing room facilities for the hydro-pool within the physiotherapy ward at Heatherwood, the Panel would like to see an improvement in the condition of this area.
- c) As mentioned in previous correspondence, the Panel regard Heatherwood Hospital's buildings and wider infrastructure to be decrepit and in serious need of repair and modernisation, to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century standards.
- d) As mentioned in previous correspondence, the Panel continues to be concerned about the continual decline in the range of services delivered by Heatherwood Hospital; there needs to be clear plans to show that it has a viable future.

With kind regards,

**Cllr. Ian W. Leake**  
**Chairman**  
**Bracknell Forest Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

CC.

The Members of the Bracknell Forest Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor Birch, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing

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