

Notes for Scrutiny Board Meeting 26th October 2010

Early in September 2010 I was informed that Ward 43 would move to Chapel Allerton in October with no changes in the ward infrastructure in place for dermatology patients. Furthermore such changes would be considered when the ward had moved. This was not acceptable by the patient panel. The Trust has listened to patients concerns at our regular LDPP meetings. We have been very involved over the past 12 months with the Trust in the production of an options paper and a questionnaire to identify patient's reasonable concerns but this has not been acted upon by the Trust and they have therefore failed in their duty of care to patients. If they had, then some of the changes would have been in place as suggested before the move.

The Trusts inaction suggests to the patients that the Trust wish to wipe the slate clean and start again after the move. The members of the LDPP felt that the consequences of this inaction was also an inefficient use of public money.

The current facilities on Ward 2 will significantly reduce the privacy and dignity of dermatology patients thereby increasing their associated embarrassment and psychological problems which are common in patients with skin disease.

Therefore after speaking to our patient committee members in late September, it was unanimously decided that we should contact the Scrutiny Board (Health), Skin Care Campaign (SCC) and British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) who all have been very supportive over the last year. The patients also wished for a letter to be sent to the Chief Executive of the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT) highlighting our concerns about the move plus an invitation for her to attend our next public LDPP meeting in October, sent on 27 September 2010.

We were informed by the Chief Executive's secretary that the CE had many commitments and was only able to give us a 10 minute telephone conversation and was unable to attend the patient panel meeting on 14th October 2010 and would be sending Philip Norman, Divisional General manager to discuss our concerns in person. This telephone conversation took place on 5th October 2010 between Maggie Boyle CE LTHT and Bill Cunliffe LDPP secretary with a reply letter dated 11th October 2010

At the LDPP meeting held on 14th October Philip Norman, attended as did Andrew Langford Chief Executive of the Skin Care Campaign. Andrew Langford was very concerned with the way the Trust had treated the LDPP. Andrew recognized, as did, the patients that like for like was not possible. He considered that the LDPP were very generous in their compromises. (a letter has been sent from SCC to the Scrutiny Board (Health)).

Philip Norman, apologised on behalf of the trust for poor communications and some considerable delays in the progress of the move. The meeting concentrated on the ward move which formulated, in full agreement with the management including Mr. Norman, a written working plan. This plan fully addresses patients concerns, as far as is practically possible and so thereby should result in appropriate changes on Ward 2.

This plan was presented in a 'written summary and conclusions paper' which was circulated to LDPP attendees at that meeting. Relatively minor changes have subsequently been included in this document which has been circulated to all members of the LDPP, the scrutiny board, and the skin care campaign.

The patients on the panel feel that this agreement occurring as the ward moves has come too late. However I hope that the essential changes needed on the Ward occur ASAP so that we, the LDPP and the patients we serve, can re-gain trust and confidence in the LTHT.

I also wish to report on a completely distinct dermatology issue The Trust is now working also on moving the outpatients department to Chapel Allerton Hospital after March 2011. The LDPP is I am pleased to say working closely with the Trust. However we hope in the future that the Trust will act as well and listen to patient's reasonable concerns. There are many patient issues not least paediatrics and skin cancer.

The moving of the dermatology department to another site will result in a change of service delivery and as such we feel that the Scrutiny Board should have been informed.