

Royal Edinburgh Hospital Patients' Council
Annual General Meeting
Board Room, Royal Edinburgh Hospital
Monday 30 November 2009

NOTES

The meeting was chaired by Patricia Whalley, Chair of the Patients' Council, and was attended by 25 people.

Welcome, Apologies, Code of Conduct and Address

Patricia welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out the Ground Rules on behaviour at our meetings. Apologies were received from Rosemary Carter, Alison Robertson, Elaine Dobbie, Lesley Smith, David Atiyah, Alan Muir and Lesley Boyd.

Our speakers were Susan Tennyson and Andy Wills. Susan continues to carry forward the work she used to do as part of the commissioning process for a (now delayed) new hospital, but in addition has taken on a Senior Charge Nurse/Advanced Practitioner role. She has been heavily involved in introducing the Star Wards initiative to the hospital and now monitors and supports the work going on in the wards as well as supporting further developments. The Personal Recovery Files are now in use in Balcarres, Merchiston and Meadows wards – patients can use these as a personal resource when they leave hospital. Uptake is improving as staff get better at offering it. The Festival Stories programme has been very successful and this concept will continue with another theme next year. Susan has supported and mentored newly qualified nurses under the Rights, Recovery & Relationships programme. She chairs the hospital's Nutrition Group which has achieved a great deal during the year. She has provided clinical supervision for staff. In 2010, Susan hopes to work more closely with the Patients' Council and would particularly like to revive the Safety, Privacy & Dignity initiative.

Andy, Clinical Services Manager for Adult Mental Health, has now taken on project management responsibility for 'Releasing Time to Care', which arrived in Scotland in 2008 and will be used in ALL NHS wards. Andy was shocked to discover that, on average, nursing staff on mental health wards spend only 25% of their time on direct patient care. 'Releasing Time to Care' aims to improve this by identifying how wards work; helping staff to come up with a 'vision' of how they want the ward to be (e.g. safe, clean, increased patient activity and direct care); providing tools to measure these; and reorganising wards and procedures to facilitate these changes. The state of the current buildings makes this work very difficult but progress is being made on the acute wards, work has started in IPCU and Care of the Elderly wards, and will reach rehabilitation wards in March 2010.

We then had a discussion. Some of the points brought up were:

- Staff need more time to talk to patients

- Staff need more time to escort patients off the wards
- More robust washers and driers are needed
- Fewer ward rounds, more individual appointments with consultants
- Patient involvement in care plans.

Notes of AGM on 4 December 2008

These were approved.

Annual Report

David Budd, Project Manager, highlighted some of the work which had taken place during a very busy and positive year - the Kaizen work with the hospital, our visitors from China, Collective Advocacy Meetings on more wards, streamlining information and procedures, governance training for our management committee and hosting pan-Lothian collective advocacy forums. David thanked the volunteers for their hard work over the year and Maggie Keppie thanked the Council for a very successful year.

Election of Members of the Management Committee

Kate Cullen, Elaine Dobbie, Shirley Gowers, Charlotte Mitchell, Albert Nicolson, Alison Robertson and Patricia Whalley were re-elected. Ian Hughes was elected.

First meeting of new Management Committee

This will take place on Monday 11th January 2010.

Financial Report

Our host agency Circles Network provided our accounts in a new format to satisfy the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator, comprising an Independent Examiners Report and a Statement of Financial Activities. David Budd provided some supplementary information. David also informed the meeting that a new host agency, AdvoCard, has been appointed with effect from 1st October 2009, and we have received extra funding from the NHS to provide a collective advocacy service to Care of the Elderly wards and the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Unit during 2010.

AOCB

Maggie Keppie and Tom Carey both announced their retirement from mental health volunteering.

New issues were brought up about staff shortages, drivers going too fast in the hospital grounds, hospital shop opening hours, ward rounds and peer researchers.