



ROYAL EDINBURGH HOSPITAL PATIENTS' COUNCIL
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Registered Charity – Scottish Charity No. SC021800

Annual Report 2007- 2008

Our Charity Trustees at date of signing the Annual Report

Elaine Dobbie	
Lesley McDade,	Chair of the Patients' Council
Albert Nicolson	
Patricia Whalley	Vice Chair of the Patients' Council
Shirley Gowers	from 6 December 2007 (AGM)
Irene Molloy	from 6 December 2007
Alison Robertson	from 6 December 2007
Andrew Shaw	from 6 December 2007
Bruce McNally	from 23 April 2008

Names of all other charity trustees during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

Lesley Smith	to 5 July 2007
Bruce McNally	to 5 July 2007
Mo Connolly	to 29 August 2007
Martin McAlpine	to 24 October 2007
Tony Chan	to 6 December 2007
Jocky Robertson	to 6 December 2007
Robert Taylor	to 6 December 2007
Charlotte Mitchell	to 24 March 2008
Craig Ireland	from 31 January 2008
Malcolm Xavier	from 6 December 2007
David Davies	from 31 January 2008

Signed: Lesley D McDade Date: 22.9.08
Chair, Patients' Council

P. M. Whalley Date: 22.9.08
Vice Chair, Patients' Council

Structure, Governance and management

Type of governing document

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital Patients' Council is an unincorporated association. It is a collective advocacy service for patients and ex-patients of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and associated community mental health services. Everyone who has used these services is a member of the Patients' Council. The staff of the Patients' Council are employed by Circles Network, Potford's Dam Farm, Coventry Road, Rugby, which provides a management service to the Patients' Council.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Members who are interested in joining the management committee are interviewed by the office-bearers to ensure their suitability and to inform them about the work of the Patients' Council and the roles and responsibilities of management committee members to ensure their ability to fulfil the commitments. At the Annual General Meeting, prospective candidates must be nominated and seconded by members of the Patients' Council. Members present at the AGM elect up to 12 service-user members of the management committee.

The same process is used to fill any vacancies during the year, with elections taking place at Patients' Council Meetings which are held every two months.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

- To promote the rights of patients and ex-patients
- To address concerns raised by patients and ex-patients about services
- To resolve these concerns by working jointly to encourage changes and developments in services with hospital staff and management
- To facilitate the representation of patients' and ex-patients' views and opinions to the hospital, to health service management and to statutory organisation, as appropriate
- To act as a link with other patient groups and networks locally and nationally
- To raise awareness of the views of patients and ex-patients and collective advocacy issues at training events, conferences and other forums.

Summary of main activities in relation to the objects

Members raised issues at open Patients' Council Meetings which are held every two months. Monthly meetings were also held with patients on individual wards. Patients also contacted us by letter, telephone or by calling into the office to raise issues. Regular and ad hoc meetings were held with hospital staff and management to resolve concerns. We also contacted staff and management by telephone, e-mail and letter to address issues quickly. Staff and service-user representatives from the Patients' Council participated in meetings, workshops, projects, working groups, conferences and training events in the hospital, across NHS Lothian and in the wider community to represent patients' views and raise awareness.

Summary of main achievements 2007-2008

The Patients' Council helped patients to express their views to inform the new design of services and different ways of working when one of the rehabilitation wards, North Wing, moved to a new location within the hospital. The move has been a great success with an improved environment and good communication between staff and service users.

We began collective advocacy meetings for patients in the Orchard Clinic, the medium secure forensic unit. They have been well attended and most productive and provided a model for the Patients' Council setting up similar groups in two other rehabilitation wards.

Several members attended a Conference called "Mission Possible" and contributed to the debate on changes in mental health nursing for the current national review.

Two of our members gave a presentation to the Lothian NHS Nursing Review Board on the partnership work done over the past three years between patients and staff on the 'Safety, Privacy and Dignity' initiative in the hospital. SPD includes the very successful Self-Harm Project which won the 2007 Mental Health Nursing Forum Scotland Innovative Practice Award for Adult Acute Inpatients Services and the project's worker won their Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Statement of Intent, to help patients, visitors and staff feel safe and respected in the hospital, was drawn up by our Safety, Privacy & Dignity groups and was launched by NHS Lothian's Director of Nursing. The Statement can now be seen prominently displayed all round the hospital.

We led a service user contribution to a review of The Hive day service, run by SAMH. This was a review of funding and service redesign conducted over three months and involved questionnaires, focus groups and individual interviews: a large but important piece of work.

Some of our service users have been working with Napier University, helping to interview prospective mental health nurses and drawing up guidelines for courses.

We helped another advocacy group, Edinburgh Users Forum, to plan a programme for a visit by a Canadian professor who lectures in 'Mad History', i.e. the history of mental health services from the service-user perspective. A number of Edinburgh groups took part on the programme.

We have been very busy with the Royal Edinburgh Hospital Campus Review Board and plans to re-provision the hospital. This has involved many of our service-users in a wide variety of committees and meetings, including the Kaizen Week which has already led to many improvements within the existing hospital. We convened a series of meetings between the Patients' Council, Circles Advocacy Project, The Hive and the Department of Spiritual Care to discuss common issues around re-provisioning. We would like to commend the amazing contribution of our activists during this extremely busy period – especially as we had no support worker during this time!

We have successfully recruited a new Collective Advocacy Support & Development Worker, David Budd, to replace our Support Worker, Ruth Rooney, who left to take up a new post at Edinburgh Carers' Council.

Financial review

Brief statement of policy on reserves

As the Patients' Council is funded by NHS Lothian and staff are employed by its managing agency, Circles Network, no reserves are necessary.

Donated facilities and services

Accommodation and computer facilities are provided free of charge by NHS Lothian.

Supported by:



Funded by:

