

National Spinal Injuries Centre

Service Users Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19th July 2006

Attending: Jackie Bailey
Moray Cook
Paul Smith
Danny Turnbull

David Griffiths (guest)
Tom Meagher (guest)

1. Apologies : Maria Freeman, Emily Leyden, Mike Mackenzie

2. **NSIC 5yr Strategy** - Tom Meagher and David Griffiths were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the revised NSIC 5yr Strategy document, in particular the delivery of Acute Care and the involvement of specialist Consultants from other departments. TM explained the changes in delivery of care throughout the NHS and the resulting implications on finding Consultants with both Surgical and Rehab qualifications. The Management team felt a better option was to contract in Specialist teams from Orthopaedics & Trauma, Plastics etc, who would hold regular ward-rounds within the NSIC and work with the Spinal Consultant for the best of the patient. Without 24hr access to a surgeon who can carry out spinal surgery there is a possibility that the NSIC may lose its Acute Care status, when they would prefer to increase the level of this care provided within the NSIC. Members of the committee expressed concern that SCI's could eventually find themselves under the care of Orthopaedic or Neurology teams instead of SCI Specialists, where the complete care package would not be understood or delivered, and that SCI as a speciality could be eroded completely. The committee recognised that in realistic terms this was perhaps the only way to go, but in heart-felt terms they'd rather see a specialist spinal surgeon within the NSIC. MC agreed to draft a document expressing the views and concerns as raised at the meeting.

MC

3. Matters Arising –

- 3.1 *Meeting with Director of Services*– JB informed the committee that she and Dan Turnbull were in the process of trying to arrange a meeting with Malcolm Newton, but was unsure of when this would take place in view of the recent changes within the management of the Trust Board.
- 3.2 *NSIC Patient Database*- JB reported that the NSIC still did not have a complete database of the patients under its care, however, they

JB

were looking at purchasing the IMS Maxims IT system, which would provide such a database. The committee requested that a realistic date for when this might be achieved be asked for at the next SDC meeting. Until this database is in place it was felt inappropriate to attempt to hold an election of the Service Users Committee.

JB

- *3.3 Nominations for Service Users Committee* – It was agreed that the 3 nominations received so far for the Service Users committee be asked if they were agreeable to being co-opted on to the committee until such time as the full patient database is in place and allows for a democratic election to be held. JB agreed to contact the 3 candidates.

JB

- *3.4 Smoke Free NHS* – The committee were split in their decision over whether the NSIC should apply for an exemption for its patients from the Smoke Free NHS policy coming in October. Some felt that with all the medical implications from Smoking the NSIC should take the hard line and ban smoking on site completely, but support with patches, counselling etc. Others felt that patients were going through enough trauma without adding more, particularly as it's a recognised addiction. It was agreed that Consultant or medical condition led decisions would only confuse things for all concerned. It was felt that if the Smoking Shelter had to be moved to a more discrete area then CCTV would need to be fitted to prevent misuse and ensure that anyone in trouble could be assisted. It was agreed that any policing of the agreement should be in line with the Yellow card/Red card system.

- *3.5 NSIC Blue Badge Car Park* – It was believed that Mike Mackenzie was still waiting to hear from John Summers, Director of Facilities & Estates, about the change of signage for the car park immediately outside the NSIC entrance. It had been brought to our attention that this car park is now being offered as the nearest disabled parking for any patients attending clinics within the new PFI building. It was suggested that the number of Disabled Bays could be increased by moving the bollards, that currently separate the new Disabled Parking area at the top of the ramp from the Pay & Display car park, so they are placed across the 'entrance road' through the car park thereby incorporating the old original Disabled Bays into the new area provided. It was felt this would be a simple solution and provide a much more realistic number of Disabled Bays for patients and visitors.

MM?

- *3.6 Wheelchair Seating Clinic* – JB informed the committee that the NSIC were in the process of trying to secure staffing for the Wheelchair Seating Clinic. It was hoped that this would mean extended opening Hours for the clinic as there is currently a 23 week waiting list.

4. **Patient Representation on NSIC Research Committee** – JB informed the committee that TM had requested Patient Representation on this committee, which meets quarterly, and the committee had agreed to rearrange it's starting time from 8am to lunchtime to allow for this. MC said he would be very interested in attending these meetings if his studies allowed.
JB also felt that one of the new members to be co-opted might be interested in attending too. JB will discuss this with the new member and TM to ensure 2 Patient Reps is permissible.

5. **General Outliers in NSIC beds/ Shared Services** – It was agreed that DT & JB would discuss the concerns over the numbers of General Patients placed within the NSIC with Malcolm Newton and the implications of Shared Services for the patients within the NSIC, particularly when it involves transfer of care to the High Wycombe site.

6. **Sports Therapy Hall** – It appears that the new Sports Therapy area offered within the new PFI is only 100m², not 200m² as currently provided within the existing building. This will not be an adequate size to carry out many of the sporting activities so integral with SCI therapy. It had been suggested that the facilities at the Guttman Stadium should be used instead and patients 'bussed' down there in inclement weather. The committee felt this to be totally inappropriate, particularly for new injuries, and agreed to discuss this matter further with Malcolm Newton.

7. **Any other business** –
 - *Consultants* - The committee felt it had good access to the NSIC Management team but felt it would also be beneficial to meet with some of the Consultants, to hear their views and concerns. JB agreed to mention this and invite any interested parties to the next Service Users Meeting.

JB

DT & JB

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JB

Date of Next Meeting: 4-6pm Wednesday 20th September '06
