

News Release

15 May 2008

On target for cutting patient waiting times

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is leading the way in cutting waiting times for its patients.

The NHS is aiming to offer all patients a maximum waiting time for non-emergency consultant-led treatment of 18 weeks from referral to treatment – with the majority of people treated much more quickly.

The target was to be treating 90% of patients within 18 weeks by December 2008 – but Dorset County Hospital is one of 13 NHS organisations in the South West to have met this target nine months early in March 2008.

At the end of March 2008, 91.6% of patients admitted to Dorset County Hospital were treated within 18 weeks of their referral. Now the hospital is aiming to be able to treat the majority of its patients who need to be admitted within 13 weeks by March 2009.

Minister of State for Health Services Ben Bradshaw MP said: “This is wonderful news for the people of West Dorset and the surrounding area.

“Ten years ago it was not uncommon to wait 18 months or more for treatment and people died languishing on waiting lists.

“To meet the 18-week target is a fantastic achievement by local NHS staff and local and regional management.”

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For more information about this news release please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683 or susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk, or the Chief Executive’s Office on 01305 254645