

News Release

18 October 2007

Continuing high quality care at Dorset County Hospital

Dorset County Hospital has been praised for the quality of its patient services in the latest hospital performance ratings.

The Dorchester hospital, which became a Foundation Trust in June this year, received a score of 'good' for quality of services and 'fair' for use of resources in this year's Annual Health Check ratings published by the Healthcare Commission.

It was also among just 27.5% of hospitals that achieved a score of 'excellent' for meeting new national targets surrounding waiting times for appointments and operations, and combating MRSA.

The 'quality of services' rating covers a range of areas including safety of patients, cleanliness and waiting times, while the 'use of resources' rating looks at how well the organisation manages its finances. Hospitals can achieve ratings of excellent, good, fair or weak.

Last year Dorset County Hospital received a 'weak' rating for its financial performance because of an overspend for the year 2005/2006. That deficit has now been recovered and the Trust is in a far stronger position financially.

Trust Chairman Robin SeQueira said: "We have considerably improved our management of resources and we feel confident this will get even better during the course of the year.

"We are very grateful to all our staff for working tirelessly over the past year to ensure that all patients receive the highest possible standard of care whilst using our services."

Trust Chief Executive Jan Bergman added: "We are committed to providing high quality clinical services and care to our patients. This year's rating of 'good' is a credit to our staff who I know will continue to develop and improve the services this hospital provides."

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