



Health Select Committee 19th November 2008

Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

Infection Prevention and Control

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Health Select Committee is meeting at Northwick Park Hospital on 19th November 2008 to discuss issues relating to the North West London NHS Hospitals Trust. One of the issues that the chair of the committee would like to consider is infection control.
- 1.2 The hospital trust has provided the committee with the latest quarterly report, presented to the trust board on the 29th October. The report focuses on:
- The incidence and trends of MRSA and Clostridium Difficile over the past year and key actions in place to prevent these infections
 - Progress made on infection control
 - Key work streams identified for 2008/09
- 1.3 The main issues identified in the report are:
- To the end of September 2008 there were 18 MRSA cases, two above the trajectory level of 16.
 - There have been 115 C Difficile cases for the same period, 87 at Northwick Park Hospital, 15 at Central Middlesex Hospital and 13 reported by GPs

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Health Select Committee should consider the Infection Prevention and Control report and question officers from the North West London NHS Hospital Trust on the work that is being done in this area.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Quarterly Infection Prevention and Control report provides details on the work being done at the North West London NHS Hospitals Trust to reduce healthcare associated infections at Northwick Park, Central Middlesex and St Mark's Hospitals. The report provides information on the number of MRSA and C Difficile cases up to the end of September 2008, results of hand hygiene audits and a summary of developments to support infection control.

3.2 The main issues identified in the report are:

- To the end of September 2008 there were 18 MRSA cases, two above the trajectory level of 16.
- There have been 115 C Difficile cases for the same period, 87 at Northwick Park Hospital, 15 at Central Middlesex Hospital and 13 reported by GPs
- Hand hygiene audits show an average compliance of 82% for nurses and 65% for doctors at Northwick Park and St Marks Hospitals, and an average compliance of 81% for nurses and 64% for doctors at Central Middlesex Hospital.
- A Joint Clinical Investigation has been commissioned by the trust, NHS Brent and Harrow PCT to look at the reasons why there is a higher number of MRSA cases than expected across the health economy. The final report was due at the end of October 2008.
- There have been issues identified relating to infection prevention and control in the maternity unit and accident and emergency, which have resulted in the trust taking action to address these.

3.3 The hospital trust has taken significant steps to reduce the number of healthcare associated infections. This is reflected in the number of C Diff cases, which are significantly below target. However, the report also highlights areas where there is still work to be done.

3.4 Members should take this opportunity to question officers from the North West London NHS Hospitals Trust on their work to reduce hospital infections.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Director of Infection Prevention and Control Quarterly Report 2008/09. Report to North West London NHS Hospitals Trust Board, 29th October 2008.

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