

Members Newsletter

Summer Edition 2009

Our Approach To The Financial Downturn

It is clear that public spending will come under severe pressure, and this will certainly impact on the NHS as we come to the end of a period of steady funding growth year on year. After 2010/11, our best estimate is that there will be no growth at all in cash terms, but there will be cost pressures such as rising drug costs, and rising demand due to an aging population. This means that the NHS is likely to face a substantial funding gap.

So how are we, at KGH, planning to prepare for this?

Historically, when the NHS has come under financial pressure the first thing to give has been waiting times. But now they are subject to tight targets which means we cannot let them lengthen. Furthermore, the quality of care is, quite rightly, under close scrutiny so we must maintain and improve that throughout the coming period.

The solution must be that we become more efficient. The NHS mantra is that improved quality, and improved efficiency, very often go together. For example, healthcare-acquired infections are expensive because they cost money to treat, and cause patients to stay in hospital longer. So preventing infection is both good for patient care, and good for the budget!

Another example is reducing length of stay in hospital. Longer stays mean we need more beds and more staff, so measures such as more effective discharge arrangements, or same day admission for surgery, will improve our efficiency without having any adverse impact on patient care.

Our approach is clear. We must work on improving both quality, and our operational efficiency. This will be all the more effective if we work with other organisations, to make changes across the whole health system, and

we have started to do just that. What we must not do, and will not do, is make cuts that damage patient care, or safety. Cutting the numbers of clinical staff, without reducing the need for them through efficiency gains, is therefore not an option for us because it will damage quality. We have set up about twenty work streams to look at our efficiencies across the whole organisation and beyond – one example would be the group that will examine whether we make best use of valuable operating theatre time. Do our lists start on time, are the gaps between operations minimised, is our planning effective so all lists are filled and our surgeons are not standing idle?

The next few years will be challenging, but we are well placed. We have flexibility in our capital programme, we are a Foundation Trust with good systems of governance already in place, and we are performing strongly. Our staff, our greatest asset, are hard-working, committed, and loyal, and we must work hard to keep them with us as we strive to build on our recent successes through the troubled times ahead.



Mark Newbold

Mark Newbold
Chief Executive



Steve Hone

Steve Hone
Chairman

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East Northants Outpatient Project – Planning Permission Granted!

Councillors on the Planning Committee have given permission for the construction of the new outpatient facility on the Nene Park development on the edge of Irthlingborough/Rushden.

Following a lengthy debate the Councillors voted by a majority of ten to four to support the application subject to securing a contribution from the Developer towards the Greenway (the public footpath and cycle

route network across the district) and the establishment of an “on demand” transport service for people living in Stanwick and Raunds so that they are not disadvantaged by the transfer of some clinical activity from Rushden into Irthlingborough. We are now working with the Developer to ensure that these matters are addressed quickly to the satisfaction of the Head of Planning. The decision also has to be referred to the Government Office for final approval because it is seen as a departure from the local plan.

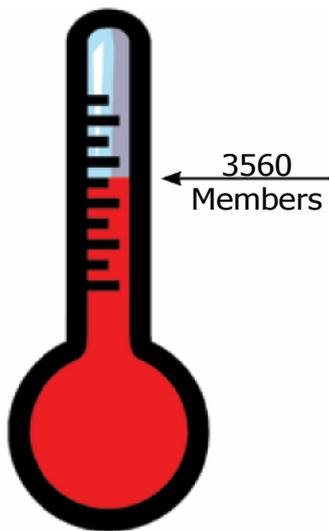
This result is clearly a major milestone in the delivery of a much wider range and number of outpatient clinics to the District and we are really grateful to the many people who supported the application. We hope that the new unit will be operational by the end of summer 2010. Regular updates will be provided to members on progress with the build over the coming months.



Recruitment Challenge!

Help Us Recruit Members

5000
Members
Help us reach
our goal!



KGH has set itself the challenge of recruiting 5000 Public Members by March 2010. We currently have 3560 Public Members but we need your help to reach our target.

It is important to us to have as many members as possible. That way we will better reflect the needs of local people, our patients and staff.

We want to involve a wide range of people who will reflect the diversity of the communities we serve – we are keen to encourage people who don't traditionally get involved with the NHS.

So now, for the challenge as members why not encourage your family and friends to support the hospital by signing up as a Member to start you off there is a membership slip below.

Alternatively, you can direct your family and friends to the website <http://www.kgh.nhs.uk/for-members/> for more information. Or contact Christine Harrison Membership manager who will be happy to send you out some application forms to give out to friends and family.

To support your local hospital, simply fill in this form & post it.



Title: _____ Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Method of Communication? Post Email

Date of Birth: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Gender: Female Male

Do you consider yourself disabled? Yes No

I would prefer that my name be kept off the Members' Public register

I declare that I am over 16 years old & would like to become a member of Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please post to: FREEPOST Plus RRHA-UHCL-YJJG Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Rothwell Road, Kettering, Northants, NN16 8UZ.

The Trust wins £710,000 to update its same sex accommodation

The trust has made a successful bid for a share of a £100m investment to improve same sex accommodation in the NHS.

The Trust has been awarded £710,000 from the Government's Privacy and Dignity Fund to improve accommodation in its medical assessment unit and make improvements to information, signs, and modesty arrangements around the Trust.

Director of Nursing and Quality, Liz Libiszewski, said it would complement the Trust's existing £20m ward improvement programme that is already improving accommodation arrangements, has welcomed the award.

She said, "We are delighted to have been successful in securing some of the national investment to improve same sex accommodation arrangements in the NHS.

"Like most Trusts in the country Kettering General Hospital is progressively improving its same sex facilities and privacy arrangements.

"In last year's National Inpatient Survey 99% of our patients said they felt they were treated with dignity and respect while in Kettering General.

"While this shows our staff are doing a very good job in maintaining people's privacy and dignity we do know that some of our facilities are less than the modern ideal.

"One of these areas is our medical assessment unit – the Middleton Assessment Unit – where medical patients are assessed before being admitted to a hospital ward.

"While patients only stay on MAU for a short period of time (usually no more than 24 hours) we want to improve accommodation in this area, which consists currently 28 beds arranged into two mixed sex bays of 12 and 16 beds.

"The new investment will enable us to do that by remodelling the department to create much smaller three and four bed bays with additional toilets and walk-in single sex shower rooms".

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation at KGH

The overall aim of our same sex accommodation improvement programme is to ensure that men and women do not have to sleep in the same bays or share toilet facilities whilst at KGH except where it is clinically justified.

The need to safeguard privacy and dignity applies to all areas of care at Kettering General Hospital. However, in exceptional circumstances where a patient may need very specialised or urgent care this may take priority over ensuring same sex accommodation. The time patients spend in mixed-sex bays will be kept to an absolute minimum and care will be provided to protect the privacy and dignity of the individual.

**privacy and dignity
for all**



same-sex accommodation

Implementation of Same Sex Accommodation - Focus Group Report

In February 2009 I responded to a request for public members to join the Dignity in Care Working Party. As a result of this I joined the same-sex accommodation Task and Finish Group in April. The elimination of mixed sex accommodation had been on the Government's agenda for some time and along with all trusts in the country KGH submitted a bid to the Department of Health for funding to help with this significant challenge.

The bid was successful and the sum totalling £710,000 is enabling the Trust to implement some of the most needed changes to meet this challenging agenda. There was of course a hurdle to overcome in that the time scale for delivering this project was tight. All to be completed by September this year the major element of the programme is the much needed upgrade of the Middleton Assessment Unit to ensure it is compliant with same-sex accommodation principles.

A review of the Trust site was undertaken and where needed dignity curtains will be placed in ward and departmental toilets and adaptable signage will be put in place across the hospital to ensure that patients have the privacy and dignity they require.

There is also a programme of education to ensure all staff know what is required of them and promotional materials are being produced to ensure the public understands exactly what same-sex accommodation means.

A pledge to the patients has been agreed which will be placed in wards and reads as follows:

'Within this ward we will care for you in a same-sex environment at all times. This may be in a room or in a bay. You should never have to pass through opposite sex accommodation or toilet and washing facilities to access your own. You should never have to share toilet or washing facilities with the opposite sex to you.'

This is quite a commitment to give to patients and of course it will take a lot of thought and care from the Trust staff to implement. The provision of same-sex accommodation is not an option, it has to be delivered; the Trust faces financial penalties if they do not. I have been privileged to participate in this project alongside the professional and dedicated group of staff led by Elaine Hayward, Deputy Director of Nursing.

I would encourage other members to put themselves forward when volunteers are called for to give the public perspective to inform the debate on provision of care.

**Written by Glenda Weston,
Public member.**



If you sit on a focus group within the hospital and would like to submit an article on the work the group is undertaking please contact Christine Harrison at Christine.harrison@kgh.nhs.uk or on 01536 492169.



LNR NCRN

Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Cancer Research Network (LNR CRN) have been running trials since September 2002. The National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) was established by the Department of Health in April 2001 to provide the NHS with an infrastructure to support prospective trials of cancer treatments and other well designed trials.

LNR CRN has a diverse / dedicated team all contributing to overall recruitment of patients through drive, skills and commitment to:

- Increase access to clinical trials and drive forward the detection, prevention and treatment of cancer.
- Facilitate the holistic management of the research pathway by coordinating, delivering and assessing treatments, training and education.
- Implement high standards of practice, data management and quality control.
- Support, advise and provide information to patients, carers, the hospital and the Health Care Community.

The key purpose of all staff members is to provide support and advice for patients and their families/ carers before, during and after their participation in a clinical trial.

In addition all team members work with both medical and nursing professionals to ensure that a robust portfolio of trials is in place at any given time. This involves close liaison with the multi disciplinary teams and attendance at relevant meetings to ensure that when appropriate, research is presented as an option for care.

At Kettering General Hospital there are 2 Cancer Research Nurses – Joanne Muldownie and Margaret Turns. The nurses have been in post since September 2002 and co-ordinate Haematology and Oncology clinical trials. The trials running at Kettering include chemotherapy studies for leukaemias and lymphomas, radiotherapy treatment for breast cancer, genetic studies for breast and bowel cancers and preventative studies for patients with a family history of ovarian cancer.

The portfolio of these trials at Kettering is reviewed regularly and we try to accommodate as many disease sites as possible.

The Research Nurse role involves working closely with the Cancer Research Network Manager and the multidisciplinary teams to increase patient recruitment into clinical trials and to maintain holistic support for all clinical trial participants, thus facilitating improved patient care.

The main responsibilities of this role involves providing detailed information to each patient about a study/trial, supporting the patients throughout their treatment journey and co-ordinating all trial activities in compliance with the study protocol.

If you want further information regarding cancer detection, prevention and treatment trials available in Kettering General Hospital please contact Joanne Muldownie on 01536 492588.



The Cancer Team

The Trust Is Leading The Way In Bowel Cancer Screening!

Kettering General Hospital is hosting the NHS bowel cancer screening centre for the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland area.

The aim is to screen all men and women aged 60-69 for bowel cancer because screening has been shown to reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer. People over 70 can participate in screening by requesting a test kit; however, there is a planned programme extension from 2010, which will then include the 70-74 year olds.

The initiative, launched at the beginning of December, is part of a national scheme to introduce bowel cancer screening across the country. In this region, the aim is to roll out the screening programme in stages across the three counties for all eligible patients registered with a GP.

All patients in the appropriate age group should have received a screening invitation; these people will then automatically be invited for re-screening every two years.

Dr Andrew Chilton is a consultant gastroenterologist at Kettering General Hospital and chairman of the Bowel Cancer Screening Implementation Group for the Leicestershire Northamptonshire and Rutland areas.

He said: "The aim of this new mass screening programme is to reduce deaths from bowel cancer.



"The UK is leading the way in bowel cancer screening and many other countries will be watching the introduction of routine national screening with great interest.

"Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK effecting 1:20 people and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths – with some 16,000 people dying from it each year.

"Research has shown that we can reduce this rate by 16-20% if we can successfully implement regular bowel cancer screening."

The programme 'kick started' in December 2007 with members of the public aged 60-69 receiving invitations to participate in the screening programme.

Further information on the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is available from www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk



A Heart Felt Appeal

In the UK someone has a heart attack every two minutes and heart and circulatory disease is the UK's single biggest killer. These facts alone are startling but did you know that Kettering and its surrounding areas within East Northants are sadly affected by higher than average rates of Heart Disease?

This is why the KGH Charity Fund embarked on a brand new appeal to help people affected by heart related illnesses and to help fund additional extras for the Cardiac wards.

At the beginning of 2009 we launched our Cardiac Care Appeal with a target of £100,000 to help pay for a Rehabilitation Room, a Relatives Quiet Room, Information Support Portals and State of the Art Monitoring Stations.

We have already raised over £50,000 which is fantastic but we still have a long way to go.

Donations have been generated by the local community along with grants from local businesses and charities. Staff have also held events and taken part in challenges such as the Three Peaks to help us get closer to the target.

In July we held our Have a Heart and Take Part Fun Run and a whole host of people took part including schools, businesses, families and groups – so well done to everyone who took part. Everyone went away with a well deserved medal and goodie bag kindly supported by local businesses. The event was hosted by Jagger and Woody from Heart Radio and was attended by the mayor and local football celebrities.

It is hoped that this appeal will be the first of many – and that Fundraising will continue to play a key part in the development and modernisation of the Trust.

Save Lives – Not Points



Back in June we launched a very special little loyalty card that enables you to shop online as you normally would but via the Hospital Gift Loyalty site. What's special about it is that the retailer that you purchase from will then make a donation to the hospital and at no extra cost to you.

Shoppers can browse online through established, high street names such as Debenhams, John Lewis, Boots, Asda and B&Q, keeping an eye out for regular offers and discounts available only to Hospital Gift Loyalty Card users.

We have enclosed within this newsletter your very own card – all you have to do is go onto www.hospitalgift.co.uk and register your card. Make sure you select Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

We hope you enjoy using this very clever and meaningful card. For any questions about the card or for more cards please call us on 01536 491 375.



To Make A Donation To Our Cardiac Care Appeal...

If you would like to make a difference too, you can send a donation via cheque made payable to the 'Cardiac Care Appeal' to Clare Coltman, KGH Charity Fund, Glebe House, Kettering General Hospital, Rothwell Road, Kettering, NN16 8UZ.

Every donation we receive no matter how big or small will help us to reach our vital target.

For more information call our Fundraising Office on 01536 491 375.

Thank you for your support.

KGH charity Fund – Supporting
Kettering General Hospital 
NHS Foundation Trust