Kettering General Hospital NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

DISABILITY AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT WORKING GROUP

Harrowden A Ward, Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust

Date of Audit – 14/12/09

Executive Summary:

- Harrowden A ward was refurbished in 2009 and reopened on 7th September 2009. Most DDA and other access issues have been addressed.
- The overall impression is of a very good standard of refurbishment and an excellent environment in which to work.
- All staff members on duty were enthusiastic and motivated. The senior staff members were particularly well informed and replied appropriately in an unprompted manner when asked how they would respond to specific situations.

Priority Action List

1. Recommendations to be carried out immediately.
2. Recommendations to be carried out under general maintenance.
3. Major structural or financial implications.

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Paper 3

4. Future design consideration.

DISABILITY AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT WORKING GROUP

ACCESS AUDIT					
BUILDING ELEMENT	**ITEM**	**BUILDING REGS.**	**CURRENT OBSERVATIONS**	**RECOMMENDATIONS**	**PRIORITY**
Signage main entrance	1	RNIB Building site part 3.31	Signage in main hospital entrance area is still small blue/white board, which does not present well alongside the large black/yellow directional signage.	Suggest all directional signage at this point be black on yellow and of standardized size as existing.	1
Signage floor 3	2	RNIB Building site part 3.31	Signage in area outside of lift on floor 3 is of a better size but old colours of white/brown.	Suggest all signage be standardised to black/yellow.	1
Lift	3		It was noticed that at the time of our visit, the audio floor recognition system in the main lift was not functioning.	Is there a fault, which can be rectified?	1

ACCESS AUDIT					
BUILDING ELEMENT	**ITEM**	**BUILDING REGS.**	**CURRENT OBSERVATIONS**	**RECOMMENDATIONS**	**PRIORITY**
Reception Harrowden A	4	3.6 bce	All design requirements are met. A minor point to assist visitors is that the intercom call system is located on the left of the reception area, which is approached from the right. There is a lowered reception.	Recommend for future design use that intercom or call bell is located to the side of reception area or similar which is in the direction of travel when approaching the area, to enable quicker appreciation that the call system exists.	4
Internal doors	5	3.10 d.g	All doors have been fitted with euro style furniture which is recommended, however, the contrast between furniture and door surface is not good.	Improvements could be made by either colour contrasting furniture, or of a colour-contrasting panel being located behind door furniture.	4
Corridors	6	3.14a	Located on the left hand side of the ward corridor is a down pipe, which feeds into a trap or similar app. .3mtr above floor level. This has no protective handrail around it.	Recommend a colour contrast protective handrail be introduced. Failing that, the protruding base is painted yellow to highlight its existence.	1

ACCESS AUDIT					
BUILDING ELEMENT	**ITEM**	**BUILDING REGS**	**CURRENT OBSERVATIONS**	**RECOMMENDATIONS**	**PRIORITY**
Staff room	7		The staff room and changing room has facilities for disabled staff which is to be recommended		
Education room	8		A good well provided room for education and information.	Disability and sensory impairment working group to provide information leaflets for the room on local associations.	
All Bays Male or Female only	9	4.24	The single sex bays have increased space since refurbishment and reduction to 3 beds to a bay. The ensuite shower room/toilet have adequate turning space for a wheelchair user. The only issue is when patients require a (L) sided transfer to the toilet and only a ® side is available in the bay. Shower facilities have slip resistant flooring and are self-draining.	To ensure that the patient is in the most appropriate bay when requiring either a (L) or ® transfer onto the toilet. Meets part M of the regulations	

ACCESS AUDIT					
BUILDING ELEMENT	**ITEM**	**BUILDING REGS.**	**CURRENT OBSERVATIONS**	**RECOMMENDATIONS**	**PRIORITY**
Shower/toilet ensuite (basin)	9	5.8	The washbasin although part M compliant is small for washing and only suitable for hands.	To ensure that in future refurbishments a larger washbasin is provided to enable patients to wash hands/face etc. in the basin.	4
Hearing loop communication	10	0.14a 4.3.5	Hearing loop not provided in the reception area.	Disability and sensory impairment working group funds will provide a hearing loop for the reception area.	2
Lighting	11	CIBSE recommendations	At the time of the visit alternate overhead light fittings were switched off, as an energy saving method. Lighting levels alternated between 400-500 lux below illuminated fittings and 60-70 lux below those, which were switched off. Lighting is longitudinal, which is recommended.	Recommended lighting levels are minimum 100-lux, preferred 200 lux. Can consideration be given to introduction of longitudinal low energy lighting, which can be maintained throughout particular department.	4

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this audit please contact:

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