

DISABILITY AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT WORKING GROUP
ACCESS AUDIT MAPLE WARD, 06/01/2011

Access Audit Report for: Kettering General Hospital
Premises audited: Maple Ward
Date of Audit: 6th. January 2011

Terms of reference:

This audit is undertaken in accord with section 21 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, which limits the scope of the audit to those facilities that offer “services to the public (section 21, clause 4.5 refers)” In so doing, it excludes those areas not intended for access to the public in the course of the business providing a service.

Priority legend:

One = recommend be carried out immediately; Two = recommend be carried out under general maintenance; Three = major structural or financial implications

Executive Summary

The overall impression is of a ward which is “Tired” and is need of some attention. The staff we met are all friendly, knowledgeable, and expressed concerns for their patients, which are in some instances increased due to the conditions under which the staff have to work.

One of the main recommendations relates to disabled access of toileting, bathing and showering facilities, which, if addressed, will be of benefit to all patients, many of whom are temporally disabled during their stay in the ward.

The recommendation regarding piped oxygen supply is not specifically a disability issue, but if addressed will improve the level of care to all patients.

Signed.....

Joanne Taylor

Building element	No.	Building regs. 2000ad. Part m refers	Remarks / Observations.	Recommendations / Comments	Priority
Signage	1	RNIB Building Site	No Signage was found within the main hospital building indicating the way to the Rockingham wing.	Suggest at a minimum signage be introduced within main entrance area	1
	2		Two signs are located at the end of the main car park. These are White on Blue. It has been preciously noted that during times when trees are in full leaf, the Rockingham Wing entrance signage is obstructed by trees.	Suggest these be replaced with black on yellow signs to conform with other signage. Consider either pollarding trees. Or introduce additional signage which is not obstructed.	1 2
	3		A "Stay Healthy" notice has been affixed to the lift call bell area. This is too large for the area, and does not create a professional impression to visitors.	Suggest either reposition, or replace with appropriately sized signage.	1
	4		On the first floor the directional signage in the lift lobby area does not reflect changes to ward locations which have taken place. Within the ward some old white / brown signage exists. In the entrance corridor various notices are affixed to the wall, these give an untidy and unprofessional appearance.	Replace with up to date signage. Replace with black on yellow. Suggest a notice board be introduced and the display of notices be regulated.	1 1 1
Illumination	5		It was noted that during times of darkness the lighting outside the Rockingham wing entrance area is totally inadequate.	Consider introducing overhead lighting to illuminate footpaths.	2
Internal doors	6	3.10. d	Within the ward a number of doors are not fitted with recommended "Euro style" door furniture.	Replace.	1
		e	Much of the door furniture does not contrast with door surface.	Replace or introduce contrasting colour surround to door furniture.	1
		f	Door frames do not contrast with surrounding walls.	Paint door frames a contrasting	1

		g.	Leading edges of doors, including double leaf doors, do not have contrasting colour leading edges.	colour. Introduce contrasting colour to leading edges.	1
Corridors	7	3.14 a	Throughout the ward radiators are not enclosed to reduce risk, and are not of contrasting colour.	Introduce contrasting colour protective covers.	2
Passenger lifts	8	3.22 l	Control buttons do not contrast visually.	Introduce visual contrast.	2
Switches, outlets & controls.	9	4.30 e	Emergency alarm pull cords should be coloured red, close to a wall, and have two 50mm diameter bangles set at 100mm and between 800 and 1000mm above the floor respectively. It was noted that within the bathrooms no emergency pull cords are available other than over the bath.	Introduce appropriate additions. Suggest consideration be given to introducing additional emergency pull cords to be available in the event of someone having a fall when changing.	2
		l	Switches etc. should contrast with their backgrounds.	Introduce contrasting colour surrounds.	2
Sanitary equipment general	10	5.4 b	Cisterns should allow flushing mechanisms on the open, or transfer side of cistern.	The only wheelchair access toilet within the ward, does just comply with the minimum regulation dimensions of 1500m x 2000m. However it is laid out in such a way that it fails to comply with 5.8. We would suggest that consideration should be given to adopting the principle of 5.10e within each ward, as it is unrealistic to require patients to use other wheelchair accessible toilets within the building.	3
		5.8	The space provided for manoeuvring should enable wheelchair users to adopt various transfer techniques that allow independent or assisted use. When it is the only toilet facility in the building, the width is increased from 1.5m to 2.0m.		
		5.10 e	Please see comments at the end of the report.		
		5.4 i	Surface finish of fittings and grab rails should contrast with background wall finishes.	Introduce contrasting colour background.	2

Accessible changing & shower facilities	11	5.18 a d m n. 5.21 a b d e.	No accessible shower facilities provided, other than in one side room. (Patients who require a shower have to go to Poplar ward, which is currently unoccupied. The emergency call bell can not be heard on Maple Ward.) Baths which have shower facilities included are not accessible.	Consider introducing a compliant shower room. (We understand that there are more toilets than are required within the ward.) Suggest at least one bath be replaced with an accessible bath which incorporates transfer seat 400mm deep and equal to width of bath.	3 3																																				
Colour contrasts.	12.	RNIB Building Site	Throughout the ward and entrance corridor very little contrasting colour variation is evident. All areas are rather bland.	Introduce contrasting colour skirting and consider refurbishment introducing more colour to the ward.	2																																				
Lighting levels	13	CIBSE Recommendations	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Entrance Corridor</td><td>364 lux.</td></tr> <tr><td>Reception Desk</td><td>73</td></tr> <tr><td>Computer</td><td>202</td></tr> <tr><td>Room 45. Under light</td><td>263</td></tr> <tr><td> Bed</td><td>72</td></tr> <tr><td>Room 48. Under light</td><td>409</td></tr> <tr><td> Bed</td><td>53</td></tr> <tr><td>Corridor Illuminated side</td><td>430</td></tr> <tr><td> Non Illuminated side</td><td>82</td></tr> <tr><td>Bathroom 45 Initially</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td> After 1 min.</td><td>140</td></tr> <tr><td> 2 min.</td><td>165</td></tr> <tr><td>Corridor to bathroom max.</td><td>245</td></tr> </table>	Entrance Corridor	364 lux.	Reception Desk	73	Computer	202	Room 45. Under light	263	Bed	72	Room 48. Under light	409	Bed	53	Corridor Illuminated side	430	Non Illuminated side	82	Bathroom 45 Initially	85	After 1 min.	140	2 min.	165	Corridor to bathroom max.	245	<p>Recommendation. Minimum levels.</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Entrances. Reception.</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr><td>Computer work stations</td><td>300-500</td></tr> <tr><td>Bedrooms</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>Corridors</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>Bathrooms</td><td>150-300</td></tr> </table> <p>Every effort should be made to maintain even lighting levels throughout. Recommend energy saving bulbs are replaced with latest technology which emit maximum levels instantly.</p>	Entrances. Reception.	200	Computer work stations	300-500	Bedrooms	100	Corridors	100	Bathrooms	150-300	2
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If you require any further information or would like to discuss this audit please contact:

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