

An Independent View

During 2007 a team of researchers from the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham conducted an in-depth independent review of The Huntercombe Hospital - Roehampton. Members of the team were drawn from several backgrounds, and included a clinician with long-standing experience in mental health and a Fellow of the Health Services Management Centre.

As part of the review, team members visited the hospital and developed a perspective on the services provided and the way in which staff members work together.

The reviewers were impressed with the atmosphere that pervades the hospital; in particular they noted the relaxed ward environment and the strong sense of calm and safety with security notably unobtrusive.

Intuitively, therefore, one might expect the quality of care and formal governance issues to be of a high standard, and this was borne out by the interviews which the team from the university undertook and the reports of the Healthcare Commission in 2004, 2005, and 2007.

“The Huntercombe Hospital - Roehampton is not large, and its clinical processes are well integrated with its managerial ones, through vehicles such as the multi-disciplinary management board. This allows all the clinical leads to meet with all the organisational leads on a regular basis to discuss operational issues from all parts of the organisation”.

“Management and governance are controlled in a holistic manner; the fact that clinical and managerial staff work so closely together seems to have ensured that the theory of clinical governance is turned into practice.

The members of staff interviewed were all enthusiastic and proud of the work they do in providing comprehensive treatment and a broad range of services.

The hospital aspires to the principles of treatment and care in accordance with evidenced-based practice.

There are excellent therapy services provided on site. The strength of the occupational therapy, art psychotherapy and sports therapy departments are noteworthy and the psychology services are progressive. These services greatly enhance the treatment that is given”.

Members of the review team also interviewed several commissioning organisations, some of whom have experience of commissioning services from the hospital. Those who mentioned The Huntercombe Hospital - Roehampton were all pleased with the quality of services, commenting on good communications with local clinicians and commissioners, high standards of clinical care and one specifically commented that the service has done well with some very difficult patients.



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