

Inspectors Rate Somerset's Mental Health Services 'Excellent' For Third Year In A Row

Oct 16, 2008

Somerset Partnership Trust continues to rate amongst the top performing NHS organisations in England

National Health Service inspectors have again rated the quality of Somerset's mental health services as 'excellent', for the third year running.

Known as the 'Annual Health Check', the Healthcare Commission gives all England's NHS Hospitals, Primary Care Trusts and mental health Trusts a performance rating for both their use of resources and the quality of their services. NHS Trusts are given one of four ratings ranging from 'weak' to the highest rating of 'excellent'.

Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust achieved an 'Excellent' rating for the quality of its services and a rating of 'Good' for its use of resources.

Trust Chief Executive, Edward Colgan, said: 'We are extremely pleased to again receive national recognition for the standard of our Trust's performance and quality of care and support we provide to people who use our services. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and commitment of staff throughout the Trust and I thank them all.'

The improvement in the commission's 'use of resources' rating reflects the significant progress which has taken place since last year in respect of both the Partnership Trust's financial management systems and its financial position.

As well as being assessed through the Auditor's Local Evaluation, which determines the Trust's 'use of resources' score, the Trust's financial processes and systems were also subject to a rigorous external assessment process undertaken as part of its application for NHS Foundation Trust status. The Trust successfully became an NHS Foundation Trust on 1st May 2008.

Ends

Editors note

Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is the lead provider of services to adults with mental ill health and the learning disabled in the county. The Trust employs just over 1,200 staff and manages a budget of over £54 million. Last year the Trust saw over 13,000 new client referrals.

The Healthcare Commission exists to promote improvement in the quality of the NHS and independent sector healthcare service.

The annual health check is the system for assessing and rating the performance of

NHS healthcare organisations in England. It is designed to give the public a more accurate picture of local NHS healthcare organisations, whilst reducing overlap and duplication in the regulation of healthcare providers, as inspections, audits and reviews are focused where they are most valuable.

In order to achieve the 'Excellent' performance rating, Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, was required to show it was not only getting the 'basics' right as well as fully meeting existing national performance targets.

The Healthcare Commission's rating for 'Use of Resources', measures the performance in five areas of financial management. They are: Balancing financial budgets, quality of financial management, value for money (economy and efficiency), financial reporting and internal financial controls.

Detailed performance ratings for the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, as well as the whole NHS can be found on the Healthcare Commission's web site. www.healthcarecommission.org.uk

For more information contact:

Edward Colgan, Chief Executive Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust.
Tel: 01278 432000