

Thorough Clean Programme

Following on from the national initiative to 'deep clean' all hospitals before the end of March 2008 the Department of Health (DH) published 'From Deep Clean to Keep Clean' in October 2008.

The Trust had foreseen the DH's expectations and funding of £100,000 had already been identified for 2008/09 which would allow a part year programme. The programme was implemented in September 2008 and incorporated the removal and cleaning of light fittings, radiator covers and vents. To date 95% of inpatient areas have received a thorough clean of priority areas which have been identified by Modern Matrons, the programme will be completed by the end of March 2009.

In addition to the cleaning programme the Trust identified funding of £100,000 to address environmental issues raised on the Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) inspections for 2008. This funding has been used to redecorate several areas and also funded the replacement of poor flooring. Whilst this has greatly improved several areas additional investment would further improve the environment and it is anticipated that funds will be available in 2009/10 to address ongoing issues. The Trust has also invested some £750,000 to address environmental issues within the Learning Disability Homes, work to be completed in this financial year.

There is an Operational Steering Group for the Thorough Clean programme and membership includes Modern Matrons, Infection Control Nurse, Hotel Services and Facilities. The group is currently working to identify priority areas and agree a timetable for 2009/10. It is anticipated that the 2009/10 programme will span a full 12 months which will allow for additional time on each site to incorporate further areas such as outpatient departments. In addition to planned cleans the resources for 2009/10 could support additional and targeted cleans as and when required.

The Trust complies with the Hygiene Code and cleaning plans in place comply with the National Specification for Cleaning with schedules clearly identifying roles and responsibilities for nursing and housekeeping staff. The Trust adopted the National Colour Coding Scheme in August 2007. Information on both colour coding applicable to specific areas and cleaning frequencies is displayed in all areas with full cleaning schedules available in every ward/department. Regular infection control audits are in place. In line with the National Specification for Cleaning guidelines regular cleanliness audits are carried out and the Trust works in conjunction with NHS colleagues in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire to carry out an External Cleanliness Verification audit programme on an annual basis. The PEAT programme for 2009 is underway and membership of the inspection team includes user representation for all inspections.