

Building for Excellence

Keeping you up to date with changes at The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust has exciting plans to become one of the best local hospitals in the country. The plans, called Building for Excellence, aim to make services more effective and improve the experience of patients.

We are already:

- Assessing emergency patients in new ways to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions
- Reducing how long patients stay when they are admitted
- Cutting waiting times for operations

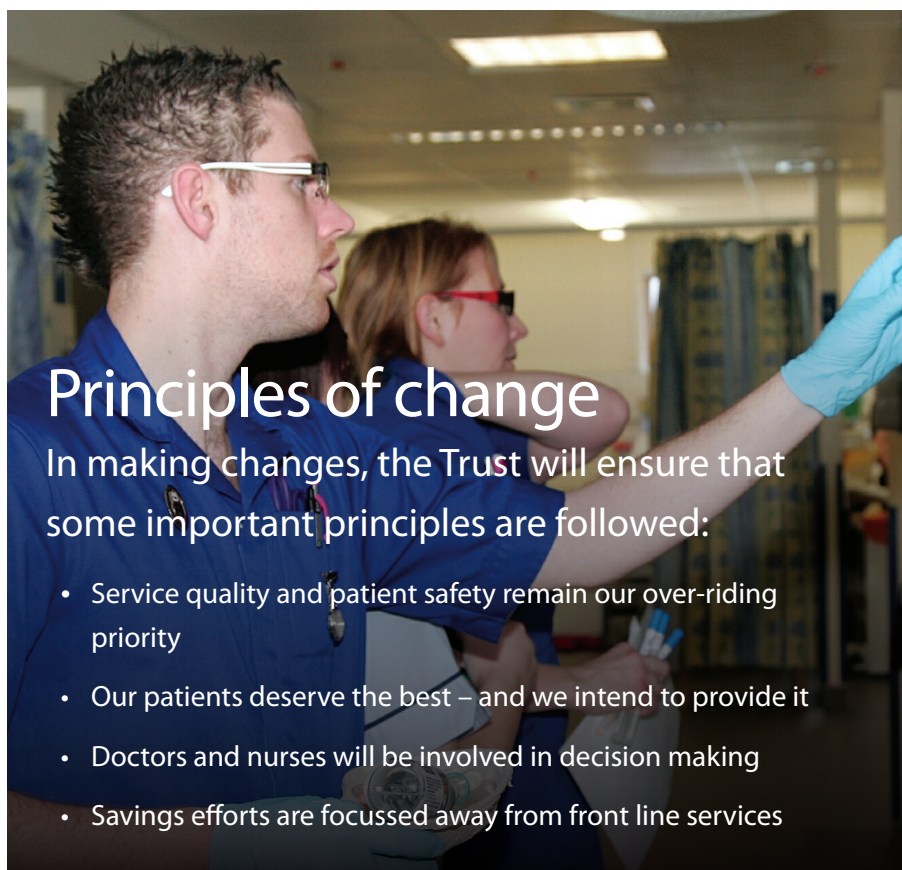
Only by securing the financial future of the hospital can we ensure it will be able to deliver the quality of care our patients deserve. Big changes are needed to balance the budget this year. However, change also offers real opportunities to make further improvements for patients. The Trust will be producing regular copies of this newsletter to keep you informed.

The Financial Challenge:

The Trust needs to save £39 million over the next three years:

Financial Year	Saving Needed
2011/12 (this year)	£17m
2012/13	£12m
2013/14	£10m

If the hospital does not make these savings, it will not have the cash it needs to provide services, pay its staff, or deliver the Building for Excellence improvements. For these reasons, change has to happen.



Principles of change

In making changes, the Trust will ensure that some important principles are followed:

- Service quality and patient safety remain our over-riding priority
- Our patients deserve the best – and we intend to provide it
- Doctors and nurses will be involved in decision making
- Savings efforts are focussed away from front line services

Improvements underway:

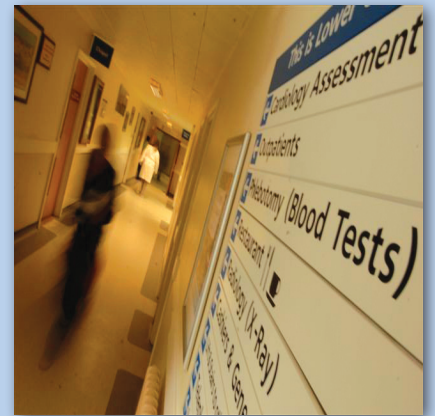
- Length of Stay - A new scheme is addressing delays in discharges to reduce the average length of hospital stay. This supports better quality care for our patients.
- Ambulatory Care - Ambulatory care describes a new way of assessing patients who need emergency treatment but do not need a hospital stay. Patients tell us that they are in favour of it.
- The average number of unexpected deaths in acute hospitals is set at 100. In 2010/11, Princess Alexandra Hospital reported a significant improved (downward) trend and now sits consistently at or below 100 – well within expected levels for a Trust of our size.

What do the changes mean?

We have robust plans to make the £17m savings needed this year. They require tough decisions to be made. The hospital expects to have about 60 fewer beds and a workforce reduced by around 250 posts. Most of these posts will be phased out through vacancy control, redeployment and fewer agency staff. By operating more efficiently, the hospital will provide the same level of service.

Indeed, many of the changes will benefit patients:

- Bed management: We are ensuring patients are not admitted to hospital unnecessarily. If they do need to be admitted, we are reducing how long they stay.
- Outpatients: Too many outpatient appointments are missed or cancelled. By working to reduce this problem, fewer clinics will be needed.



Savings will be concentrated in administrative and other support areas, to protect front line services for patients.

Your views matter:

Change can be unsettling, especially when it happens quite quickly.

We will keep you informed – but we also want to hear your views on what is happening.

Contact us in one of the following ways:

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