



Category: Access to Information

Award Reference Number: 1185

Region: North East

Disease: Mental Health

Organisation Type: In Patient

Intervention: Information Prescriptions

Key words: Fact sheets, Tees, Esk, Wear, County Durham, Scarborough,

Right Information - Right Time - Right Place **Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust**

Setting: Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust provides a range of mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services for the 1.3 million people living in County Durham, the Tees Valley and the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale areas of North Yorkshire.

The Trust employs around 5000 staff and has an annual income of £220m and services are spread over a wide geographical area which includes coastal, rural and industrial areas.

Introduction: The NHS White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' gave a commitment for information prescriptions to be given to people with long-term conditions. This stated that information prescriptions should be offered to people using services and their carers by health and social care professionals to direct them to sources of advice, support and groups to network with others with a similar condition.

The provision of information to patients and carers is a key objective in the trust's strategic direction and information prescriptions are seen as a very positive step towards achieving this. In January 2009, the Executive Management Team approved the proposal for the introduction of information prescriptions through a phased approach within the trust, with various options to be explored.

Two six month pilots were introduced, in the memory service at Auckland Park Hospital in Bishop Auckland and in the acute adult mental health inpatient units at Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough.

To support the pilot of information prescriptions in the acute inpatient units, and the subsequent introduction in all trust acute inpatient units, discussions took place involving relevant staff and service user and carer organisations. These identified a need to develop information factsheets on a range of mental health conditions which should be concise and provide patients who are acutely ill with basic and clear information about their condition and the treatment they will be offered as an inpatient in our hospitals.

Nominated Contact: *Carolyn Ing, Account Manager, Information Prescriptions Project Support Manager, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust*