



Category: Setting the Stage/Strengthening the Foundation

<p>Award Reference Number: 1268</p> <p>Region: East</p> <p>Disease: Cross dept</p> <p>Organisation Type: Primary/ Secondary</p> <p>Intervention: Patient Engagement/ involvement</p> <p>Key words: Community conversations</p>
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NHS Community Conversations

NHS Suffolk

Setting:

NHS Suffolk commissions healthcare for and on behalf of 600,000 Suffolk residents with approx. 200 staff based near Ipswich. The NHS Community Conversations are a partnership initiative with the other NHS organisations in Suffolk, i.e. Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust (the two acute hospitals), Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust, Suffolk Community Healthcare and the East of England Ambulance Service. The Out of Hours Service (Harmoni) and Suffolk General Practitioners participated in 2010.

Introduction:

In 2008 NHS Suffolk held the first NHS Community Conversation in order to consult on its Single Equality Scheme. People covered by the equalities legislation were specifically invited. They raised many other issues, some strategic and some relating to specific issues in, say, a hospital. To follow up these issues and develop meaningful dialogue with patients and the public, in subsequent years the NHS organisations in Suffolk have planned, hosted and sponsored the events as a partnership. Inviting people covered by the equalities legislation remains a priority so that their healthcare experience is a conscious and significant part of the experiences and views that are gathered.

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