

Mental Health Act Annual Statement December 2009

Sherwood House, Storthfield House & The Limes (Cambian Healthcare)

Introduction

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) visits all places where patients are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. Mental Health Act Commissioners meet and talk with detained patients in private and also talk with staff and managers about how services are provided. As part of the routine visit programme information is recorded relating to:

- Basic factual details for each ward visited, including function, bed occupancy, staffing, age range, and gender of detained patients.
- Ward environment and culture, including physical environment, patient privacy and dignity, safety, choice/access to services and staff/patient interaction.
- Issues raised by patients and patient views of the service provided, from both private conversations with detained patients and any other patient contacts made during the course of the visit.
- Legal and other statutory matters, including the scrutiny of Mental Health Act documentation, adherence to the Code of Practice, systems that support the operation of the Act and records relating to the care and treatment of detained patients.
- Commissioners use the guiding principles in the Code of Practice (Published 2008) to inform opinions about the quality of care provided by the provider. All decisions must be lawfully informed by good practice and consistent with the Human rights Act 1998. Commissioners expect these principles to underpin all decisions and clinicians and managers and all those involved in providing care balance application of the principles to provide the most effective and sensitive care to individuals.

At the end of each visit a “feedback summary” is issued to the provider identifying any areas requiring attention. The summary may also include observations about service developments and/or good practice. Areas requiring attention are listed and the provider is asked to respond stating what action has been taken. The response is assessed and followed up if further information is required. The information is used by the CQC when verifying the NHS Annual Healthcheck and making decisions about the inspection programme in both the NHS and Independent Sector. From April 2010, the Mental Health Act Commissioners’ findings will inform the CQC’s assessments of organisations in relation to registration requirements, through evidencing ongoing compliance with the Mental Health Act and the Code of Practice.

Background

This statement covers three inpatient facilities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Namely The Limes, Sherwood House and Storthfield House. It is intended throughout this statement to refer to all three hospitals collectively as there are no individual issues, concerns or recommendations.

All three hospitals provide intensive psychiatric rehabilitation services for male patients with a mental illness and/or challenging behaviour. In total the hospitals provide 70 inpatient beds.

This report draws on findings from visits by the Mental Health Act Commissioner during August and September 2009. Three wards were visited, 21 Patients were interviewed and 12 sets of documents were reviewed.

The Annual Statement provides an overview of the main findings from visiting, highlighting any matters for further attention and/or areas of best practice. It is published on the Care Quality Commission website, together with other publications relating to individual mental health providers.

Main findings

Environment

All three hospitals provide a high level of care in modern well-equipped facilities. There is a high standard of comfort, privacy and security for patients in single bedrooms and well-furnished areas.

Staff and Staff Training

There is commitment and enthusiasm shown by the three hospital managers and staff during visits.

There is good access by staff to training courses.

There appeared to be cooperation and coordination between staff in providing nursing and therapeutic care and activities, as well as meeting the daily needs of patients. Staffing levels enabling good interaction between patients and staff, which was observed during visits.

Advocacy and External Links

There are good links with Independent Advocacy, relatives and carers. It was observed that there was useful information displayed around the hospitals for patients and relatives.

Patients files

Several detained patients files and associated treatment cards were examined at all three hospitals. All legal documents were in order. Forms used for Section 17 leave and information to patients under Section 132 of the Act were appropriately and timely completed. There were a number of examples of good practice on patients' files in documenting care plans, nurse, medical and other clinicians reports and assessments. These were identified in individual hospital visits feedback summaries.

Meetings with patients

The Commissioner interviewed many patients at the three hospitals. All spoke highly of their care and the opportunities available to them both in the hospital and the community.

Forward Plan:

- The Mental Health Act Commissioner will continue to visit all three hospitals in the coming year to monitor the operation of the Act and to meet with detained patients in private.
- The Mental Health Act Commissioner will work with other colleagues within the CQC to develop an integrated approach to the regulation of the hospital's services.

Appendix A

Commission Visit Information for Cambian Healthcare covering the period between 1 August 2008 and 21 October 2009

Data for this report was downloaded from the live system on 22 October 2009

Date	Ward	Det. Pats. seen	Records checked
The Limes			
20 Aug 2009	The Limes Nursing Home	6	4
Total for The Limes		6	4
Sherwood House			
26 Aug 2009	Unit	5	4
Total for Sherwood House		5	4
Storthfield House			
15 Sept 2009	Storthfield House	10	4
Total for Storthfield House		10	4

Total Number of Visits: 3

Total Number of Wards visited: 3

Total number of Patients seen: 21

Total Number of documents checked: 12