

Health briefing

Area Panel 4

September 2005

Welcome to our September Health Briefing

Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) work together to improve the health of people across the city, and make sure the health services they need are available. Their job is to:

- work out what is needed to improve local people's health
- provide some services themselves – such as community services including clinics, district nurses, children's services and health visitors
- buy some services from others – such as larger hospitals and specialist treatments.

The PCTs will be providing a local Health Briefing for each Area Panel meeting. If you have any questions you can either direct them through the Area Panel manager - Richard Smail on 01332 258505 or contact us direct: Debbie Jackson, Associate Director, Central and Greater Derby PCTs, Derwent Court, Stuart Street, Derby DE1 2FZ – telephone 01332 224000 extension 6360.

In this issue you'll find details of:

- star ratings
- patient-led NHS.

Star Ratings

The latest assessment of the NHS has revealed that patients in the two Derby City Primary Care Trusts are receiving a good service from their local health services. Both Central Derby PCT and Greater Derby PCT achieved two stars in this year's ratings - covering 2004/05.

Central Derby has shown significant improvement in performance since last year and increased from one star to two. Greater Derby PCT has continued to perform well and has maintained its two star status.

These ratings are based on eight key targets:

- access to a primary care professional
- access to GP within 48 hours
- financial management
- four-week smoking quitters
- outpatients waiting times
- inpatient waiting times
- waiting times in A and E
- treatment for drug misuse.

Both Central and Greater Derby PCTs achieved seven of the eight targets but both underachieved against the Accident and Emergency target by a narrow margin. The national target was that 98% of patients would have a maximum waiting time of four hours in Accident and Emergency. The PCTs achieved 97%, missing the target by just 1%.

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The Ratings also consider performance in three focus areas, known as the balanced scorecard. The Healthcare Commission assessment showed that in the focus areas Central Derby PCT was placed in the highest band in England for Access to Quality Services and in the middle band for Improving Health and Service Provision. Greater Derby PCT was placed in the highest band for Improving Health and in the middle band for Access to Quality Services and Service Provision.

Overall Greater Derby was ranked average or above on 29 out of 32 indicators and of these 8 achieved the highest possible banding. Central Derby was ranked average or above on 28 out of 31 indicators and of these 10 achieved the highest possible banding. It is important to acknowledge that each PCT scored below average on only 3 indicators, which is less than a tenth of the total indicators.

The full details of the star ratings are available at the Healthcare Commission's website:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk

Creating a Patient-led NHS

Guidance from the Department of Health on the way forward for Primary Care Trusts – Commissioning a Patient-led NHS – has been received. This sets out the roles and functions of PCTs in the future, and this will mean some changes to the way PCTs are organised across Derbyshire. The PCTs are now considering the implications of this and more information about possible changes will be available later in the year.

You can view the document on the Department of Health's website at:

www.doh.gov.uk

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