

News Release

2 August 2011

DCH rated 'excellent' by inspectors

Dorset County Hospital has received top scores from national assessors for excellence in patient care and facilities.

The annual PEAT (Patient Environment Action Teams) inspection for 2011 rated DCH as 'excellent' in all three areas – environment, food and privacy and dignity.

The hospital's Director of Nursing and Quality Alison Tong paid tribute to staff for maintaining such high standards.

She said: "These are our best ever scores which shows what significant improvements have been made over recent years.

"Tribute must be paid to the hard working and dedicated housekeeping, nursing, catering and estates teams for these results. Their contribution has made a major difference not only to the hospital environment but to ensuring our patients remain safe, comfortable and well-nourished whilst in our care.

"I regularly receive letters of praise from patients and their carers about the high standards of privacy and dignity, cleanliness and the environment, and the quality and variety of food offered to patients and visitors.

"We are really pleased the efforts of staff to improve standards have been recognised and will continue to work hard to ensure patients continue to receive such excellent care."

PEATs were established in 2000 to review standards at acute hospitals using a five point scale – excellent, good, acceptable, poor and unacceptable.

For more information about the PEAT scores you can visit the National Patient Safety Agency website at www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk

ENDS

PHOTO: Nursing, catering, housekeeping and estates staff at Dorset County Hospital.

For more information please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk, Mon to Fri, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Outside of these hours you can contact the Chief Executive's Office on 01305 254645.