

News Release

15 August 2011

Monitor accepts Trust's plans for recovery

Monitor has published improved risk ratings for Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust following a review of its Annual Plan for 2011/12 which shows it is on the road to recovery.

Following this latest review of the Trust's performance, Monitor – the independent regulator for foundation trusts - has agreed a financial risk rating of 3 and a governance risk rating of amber-green. At the same time last year, the Trust was rated 1 for finance and red for governance.

Trusts are rated 1-5 for finance, where 1 represents the highest risk and 5 the lowest. The ratings for governance are red, amber-red, amber-green and green.

The Trust's Chief Executive Jean O'Callaghan said: "We are delighted that the improved rating for governance recognises that despite the financial pressures the Trust has been under we have maintained and improved the quality of patient services. Full credit for this goes to our staff who have been working extremely hard to ensure that we can make savings without impacting on standards of patient care."

Director of Finance Bill Boa added: "Our Annual Plan sets a surplus of £700,000 for the end of the year. That's an ambitious target after several years of deficit but Monitor think our plans are robust and achievable. Four months into this financial year we are achieving exactly what we said we would do and everyone within the Trust who is working so hard towards this should take a tremendous sense of pride from that.

"We still have some way to go and this year is going to be tough but we have the skills and determination within this organisation to succeed."

For more information about the risk ratings you can visit Monitor's website here: <http://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/about-nhs-foundation-trusts/nhs-foundation-trust-performance/planned-performance/review-nhs-fou-0>

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