

News release distributed by Skills for Health – Workforce Projects Team

Efficient Handover Crucial to Quality Patient Care

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Skills for Health – Workforce Projects Team (WPT), the organisation tasked with assisting NHS organisations implement and sustain EWTD compliance, has announced the roll out of a new Handover 24/7 IT solution in partnership with Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust has over the past two years developed an IT solution aimed at improving the quality and structure of handover within the Hospital at Night (HaN) model of care.

The early development of the handover tool was linked to the Royal College of Surgeons working party on the EWTD.

As one of the successful European Working Time Directive (EWTD) pilot site partners working with WPT, Salisbury achieved EWTD compliance as part of the programme of work, undertaking a risk assessment of the previous handover arrangements.

The results enabled the trust to identify areas where improvements were required and the new IT solution has resulted in a multiprofessional system supporting verbal handover which can be implemented by any trust with a HaN process in place (or in trusts currently implementing HaN)

Tim Lund, divisional manager and lead for the EWTD programme at Workforce Project Team said:

“The necessity for the NHS to meet the EWTD has not surprisingly brought about much debate. We believe that multiprofessional staff handovers are essential and lead to crucial and relevant information being shared across teams 24/7.”

Salisbury and WPT will be making this IT system software available to twenty NHS trusts in the near future, providing training and support as part of the package.

Further information on this and the other useful resources available from Workforce Projects Team can be found on the healthcare workforce portal:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/salisbury



ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. Skills for Health - Workforce Projects Team (WPT) supports NHS organisations achieve their workforce objectives and find solutions to the challenges that may prevent them from having the right people in the right healthcare roles in the future. The Workforce Projects Team is the lead organisation helping support the NHS in finding and implementing the solutions to the Working Time Directive 2009. In 2009 the maximum number of hours that junior medical staff in the NHS work will be reduced from 56 to 48 hours under European law. This is a major challenge for the health service and will require new ways of working to be adopted.

For more information contact:

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