



Health Education East of England
Directorate of Education and Quality

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**Report of the School of Paediatrics visit to Luton and Dunstable NHS
Foundation Trust 29th August 2013**

Visiting team

Dr Wilf Kelsall
Dr David Cremonesini

Introduction

We were pleased to receive a report from Dr Sheth and Dr Nathwani regarding progress in the department since our last visit in February 2012. Dr Tekki Rao has stepped down as the paediatric tutor after many years of excellent service. Luton continues to go from strength to strength and increase its activity both in the neonatal service and general paediatrics. The recent trainee GMC survey has highlighted work intensity. In addition there were some challenges around access to regional teaching and study leave. It is recognised that the tight rota and ongoing staff shortages have contributed to these issues. The department recognises the importance of training and has identified trainee representatives. The induction programme continues to be developed and modified. There are excellent opportunities for MRCPH preparation both in terms of pre-exam teaching and mock examinations. Trainees are encouraged to participate in a wide range of management issues and innovative video conferencing.

Meeting with Trainees

We met a representative group of trainees that included foundation, general practice, and paediatric trainees from all levels. All of them confirmed that the consultants were easily approachable and were keen to provide excellent educational supervision and were readily available to complete workplace based assessments. They highlighted the challenges in the rotas but consultants are working with trainees to ensure better attendance in outpatient clinics and at regional training days. Trainees confirmed that there are a wide range of educational opportunities with the morning teaching sessions being well protected. They confirm that they have an excellent relationship with nursing staff across the whole department. All of the trainees, despite the heavy workload, would recommend the department for their training.

Conclusions

1. Luton is an outstanding department that provides excellent training, both in terms of clinical paediatrics and wider management training.
2. We are pleased to be able to announce the appointment of Dr Anne Ingram and Dr Stalin Ramprakash who will join Shanthi Shanmugalingam to work as a paediatric tutor team in Luton. I am grateful for all the previous work done by Dr Rao.

Recommendations

The department should work closely with the School of paediatrics and Watford to develop geographic family friendly training rotations for all levels of the programme. The School should look to develop more special interest training modules across the department. This will require the conversion of clinical fellow posts to formal training posts. I shall recommend this to the Dean and then the School at Luton and Watford can work together to develop further spin training rotations to enhance the East of England programme.

Issues round study leave access and funding need local review

We were very pleased with the visit today. Despite the fact that Luton is an extremely busy hospital it is pleasing that trainees recommend the training there. We are very grateful for everyone's commitment to training.

Report dictated by Dr Wilf Kelsall



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