



Health Education East of England
Directorate of Education and Quality

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Report of the School of Paediatrics visit to Colchester 27th August 2013

Visiting Team

Dr Wilf Kelsall, Head of School
Dr Susan Rubin, Consultant Paediatrician

Introduction

We received an update from Dr Cackett from changes in the Department since our last visit in 2011. Since then, there have been a number of consultant appointments with more planned. She also recognised that there have been challenges in the department over the last year at consultant level which have impacted on training.

Meeting with Trainees

We met with a representative group of Trainees which included Foundation, General Practice, level one and level two Paediatric trainees. The trainees confirmed that this had been a difficult year for the department but all of them were very positive about how issues raised by trainees were taken seriously and addressed. They felt that it was a very cohesive department with very supportive consultants and nursing staff. All of the consultants were easily approachable. They provided excellent supervision. The trainees felt that the rotas were carefully constructed to allow them to maximise their training opportunities. They confirmed that in the first part of the year there had been some difficulties with the teaching programme, but under the direction of the senior trainee

supported by a consultant, the educational programme had improved greatly. All of them would recommend Colchester as a training department.

Conclusions

This has been a difficult year for the Trust following the CQC and Keogh reviews. Within the department there have also been challenges and changes amongst consultant personnel.

Trainees feel that this is an excellent training environment providing a broad clinical experience and also allowing them to develop other managerial skills through attendance at governance and safety meetings. The rotas are designed to give maximum flexibility allowing attendance in Outpatients, at regional meetings, and access to study leave.

Recommendations

1. Recent introduction and pilot of a paperless handover system appears to create more problems than it solves through maximising patient confidentiality. This system needs to be reviewed as we felt that it could impact on the quality of handover and management of the department leading to patient safety issue.
2. Whilst access to specialty clinics is good, attendance at general paediatric clinic is more challenging. This needs to be reviewed.
3. Training issues and a review of the trainee's progress should be minuted in faculty meetings attended by consultants.

Despite it being a difficult year for the department we were very pleased to hear that all the trainees are delighted by their experience in Colchester. No further visits will be required over the next 2-3 years unless issues are raised in future GMC surveys or ARCP feedback.

Report dictated by Dr Wilf Kelsall, August 2013

CC: Dr Nicola Cackett, Clinical Tutor
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