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Report of the School of Paediatrics visit to West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Watford 29th August

Visiting Team

Dr Wilf Kelsall, Head of School

Dr David Cremonesini, Consultant paediatrician and paediatric tutor at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital,

Departmental Introduction

We received an update following our last School visit to Watford in February 2012. That visit came on the back of a poor trainee GMC survey in 2011. A robust action plan was put into place which addressed staffing levels in the level one rota, improved the induction programme for all trainees, and ensured that consultants participate in all handovers. This has resulted in a positive GMC survey for 2013.

Meeting with Trainees

We met with a representative group of trainees including Foundation, General Practice, and Paediatric trainees from all levels. All of them confirmed that there had been sustained progress in the department over the last year. All of them were extremely positive about the training they received. They felt that there were excellent consultant role models. Consultants were approachable both on clinical matters and provided excellent educational supervision, and were readily available to complete workplace base assessments. They confirmed that handovers were conducted efficiently with consultant leadership. Handovers provided excellent educational opportunities. There are a wide range of other educational events in the department. All of them would recommend Watford as a training institution.

Conclusion

The Paediatric department provides outstanding training opportunities for trainees. This has been enhanced by increasing the personnel in the tier one rota. The department has excellent consultant role models, who provide local, regional, and national leadership in paediatric education and training particularly around the MRCPCH examinations and START assessment.

In addition to high quality clinical training, trainees are able to gain extensive management experience in safeguarding, education, and MRCPH initiatives.

The Trust "Onion" meeting with the Chief Executive and the departmental "Spring Onion" meetings allow trainees and other staff to raise issues of concern.

Recommendations

1. The school will want to receive confirmation from trainees and the department regarding the successful introduction of the new tier one rota. Provide a written report in 6 months
2. The department should work closely with the school of Paediatrics to provide high quality training with family friendly, carefully organised geographic rotations to enhance training. I will recommend to the Dean that the clinical fellow post in the level one and level two tiers of training are converted to formal training posts. We should work together to develop robust special interest training programmes.
3. Training issues and a review of the trainee's progress should be minuted in faculty meetings attended by consultants.

Watford is an outstanding educational department and a huge asset to the School of Paediatrics.

We hope that repatriation issues between Health Education and East of England and Thames would not result in the movement of the department to another area. The paediatric department in Watford is vitally important to the success of the East of England School of Paediatric.

Congratulations on delivering high quality training. The work that has been put in place over the last 12-24 months has yielded outstanding results. Unless issues are identified in future GMC surveys or ARCP assessments I will not envisage a need to re-visit the department for at least 2-3 years.

Report dictated by Dr Wilf Kelsall

CC: Dr Mike Van Der Watt, Medical Director
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LETB Quality Team
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