



PRESS RELEASE

No:76/2008

Date: 8th April 2008

GHA Innovation: Nursing Education goes on 24 hours a day

GHA invites retired night nursing staff to hear the news

The GHA has introduced a "Hospital at Night" approach to improvement of patient care at night through a continuing professional development programme for night staff given during their working shift.

In preparation for the GHA Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Conference held on Wednesday, 9 April, in John Mackintosh Hall, under the leadership of Mr Kevan Sercombe, the night team has produced an inspiring DVD, which shows both their achievements so far with the concept of "Hospital at Night". It includes increased training for all staff grades at night, the introduction of increased observation rounds for all patients, and the establishment of a staff database. They also includes proposals on how they wish to develop these initiatives further. The group has also produced a comprehensive information booklet setting out their achievements and aspirations, which will be given to all Conference participants.

There will be sixteen special guests at the conference on the 9th April 2008. A group of retired night staff have been invited to attend one of the seminar presentations on "Hospital at Night". Led by Mr Sercombe, the Clinical Nurse Manager (Secondment) on night duty, the senior night team will outline the principles of the 'Hospital at Night' initiative which they have been developing since attending a UK conference on the subject, and sharing with the audience what they learned on an exchange visit to Whipps Cross Hospital in the autumn of last year.

The idea to extend an invitation to retired night staff came from Mr Sercombe after some had expressed interest in keeping in touch with each other and hearing about the new work.

Mr Sercombe said he was pleased to see such interest from former colleagues, many of whom had acted as role models and mentors for the night staff in the past and added "I am delighted to have the opportunity to share the innovative work that has been developing to improve patient care at night. This has been a real team effort, both from the night staff, and with support from staff on days and all the other members of the multi-disciplinary team who are helping to make this initiative a success. I am very proud of our achievements and of our DVD and information booklet."

Note to editors:

The Hospital at Night Seminar commences at 12:15 in the Main Hall at John MacIntosh Hall on Wednesday, 9 April. The DVD will be shown to participants, followed by a Round Table discussion session enabling participants to ask questions about the work. The retired night staff have indicated they wish to arrive at 11 am to join former colleagues for coffee.