



## **Visit to Stroke Unit B14 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

### **Present**

Anne Turner – LINKs Member  
Pat Taylor – LINKs Member  
Eileen MacDonald – LINKs Member  
J Rouse - Ward Manager B12  
Sian Edwards - Matron

### **Aim**

The aim of the visit was to see if any changes had been made to the bathing facilities on the ward.

We were met by Sister Rouse who informed us that funding had been agreed to update the bathing facilities and storage. She also mentioned that the unit might move to a different area. However, they were given a guarantee that the funding would go with them.

### **Environment**

The nurses, medical team, OT Physio and other members of the multi disciplinary team all work around the nursing station. This area was very crowded. Staff use any available space for writing up notes and discussing patient care. When patients are admitted to the ward out with visiting hours, relatives are also waiting in the same area around the nursing station where patient case note reviews take place. Units and storage in this area again are outdated.

The ward now has four assessment beds, two male and two female. This enables patients to go straight to the ward from A&E for assessment, ensuring that treatment can be started within the time scale set. Scores in the Sentinel Audit have improved greatly.

### **Staffing**

The ward establishment has been increased by 2.3 W.T.E. for staff nurses to provide thrombolysis treatment at Warrington Hospital, 8.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Sunday with overnight cover from Whiston Hospital. The ward manager said that she felt that there was also a need to increase the number of carers on the ward to provide adequate care, especially when dependency was high and the length of time it takes to give care, for example, to feed and toilet patients, etc. Community stroke services with the support of specialist nurse provide follow up services in the community enabling earlier discharge. Home assessments are undertaken to assess whether adaptations to the home are necessary to provide a safe environment.

Thank you to Sister Rouse and Sian Edwards for their time.



### **Recommendations**

- Review staffing levels and if required submit a business plan to enable more carers to be employed.
- The nursing station, if the ward is to remain where it is, should be looked at with a view to providing a better working environment in a very busy overcrowded area.

A Turner  
P Taylor  
E MacDonald