

SEPT 015-12

3 April 2012

SEPT FOOD FIRST TEAM HAVE AN APPETITE FOR WINNING

South Essex Partnership University Trust's (SEPT) Dietetic Team, part of SEPT's Community Health Services have won the Chief Health Professions Officers Award for Leadership for their Food First Programme at the Advancing Healthcare Awards held on Friday 30th March at the Radisson Blu Portman in London.

Individual Awards for Leadership were presented to SEPT Specialist Dietitians Leanne Fishwick and Cathy Forbes.

The Awards, now in their sixth year, recognise and reward projects and professionals that lead innovative healthcare practice in healthcare science and allied health professions that make a real difference to patients' lives.

The Food First programme is led by a team of dietitians and assistant dietetic practitioners working in partnership with providers and commissioners across the community in Luton and South Bedfordshire and Essex. The main aim of the programme is to improve the identification and management of malnutrition and dehydration.

Initially this work was set up to address the increasing costs of prescribing oral nutritional supplements in the community, but the programme now has a role in helping to achieve 'harm free' care across Luton and South Bedfordshire and Essex, with malnutrition and dehydration being key factors in the development of all four harms (UTI's, VTE's, Pressure ulcers and falls).

The programme is also now delivering more specific training in response to users needs e.g. care planning training for care home and domiciliary care managers and working with key partners to provide a collaborative approach to embed change across all areas of healthcare and has delivered training to over 1000 staff to date.

Within local care homes, training is delivered to all staff (from managers to gardeners). There is a realistic expectation that one off sessions with care homes do not always embed good practice and instil culture change so tailored and individualised support is also provided. This is designed to help care homes achieve the 'Food First expectations' and, as a result, the 'Food First Care Home' Status. Care homes are then audited 6 monthly to ensure behaviour change is maintained.

SEPT Chief Executive Professor Patrick Geoghegan OBE, said "I always say we have the best staff working within SEPT and what is clear time and time again is that they have a passion for their work and for delivering the best patient improvement outcomes. Whilst this programme is in its infancy it's impact is already demonstrating a

measurable change in practice and I congratulate the team on their outstanding national achievement”.

For more information about the Food First Team contact 01582 707629 or email foodfirst@sept.nhs.uk

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

More Information about SEPT

With an annual turnover of approximately £300m South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) is one of the most successful Foundation Trusts in the country providing integrated care including mental health, learning disability, social care and community services.

We provide these services across Bedfordshire, Essex and Luton, employ approximately 6,100 people and serve a population of 1.8 million. We work with a wide range of partner organisations to deliver care and support to people in their own homes and from a number of hospital and community based premises. We have many modern community based resource centres and clinics to provide local services to local people where possible.