

Patient-led inspections

David Cameron announced in January of this year that current PEAT (Patient Environment Action Teams) inspections would be replaced by new patient-led inspections, which will be known as Patient-Led Assessments of the Care Environment or PLACE.

PEAT inspections, as they are known, have been going on since 2000. PEAT stands for 'Patient Environment Action Teams'. PEAT Teams are made up of NHS staff (such as nurses, matrons, doctors, catering managers, directors etc.) and also patients and patient representatives.

PEAT inspections are an annual event for all NHS sites that have more than 10 beds. The PEAT teams look at *non-clinical* aspects of patient care – such as the environment, food, privacy and dignity – basically everything from how clean the floor is to how tasty the jelly is...

NHS sites and trusts are given scores from 1 (unacceptable) to 5 (excellent). The idea is that the inspections produce scores for each site to encourage them to improve their services – and to share best practice.

So, how are the new PLACE assessment going to work?: The final details haven't been decided yet – but the new assessments are being piloted this October. A total of 68 hospitals are currently involved in pilot PLACE assessments. The Pilot assessments will run from 1st October to 12th October 2012. [You can read the documentation that the hospitals have been sent](#). They will be similar to the current PEAT inspections but with more lay members/patients on the teams (over 50% of the team members must be patients).

Local Healthwatch will of course be the 'new consumer champion for health and social care' – and hopefully a source of eager patient representatives champing at the bit to do this sort of thing. Local Healthwatches – like LINKs – will decide what work they get involved with so they might decide that they don't want to get involved with the new PLACE assessments. But the initial message seems to be that Local Healthwatch should be invited to have a key role in the new PLACE assessments.

Here's a list of all the hospitals that are taking part (the list names the Trust and then the name of the hospital):

- 5 Boroughs Partnership, Hollins Park
- Anglian Community CIC, Clacton And Harwich
- Avon And Wiltshire, Callington Road
- Barking Havering And Redbridge, Queens Hospital
- Barts Health, Whipps Cross

- Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust, Bedford
- Birmingham And Solihull, Ardenleigh
- Birmingham Women's, Birmingham Women's
- Bmi, Rochdale
- Calderstones Partnership, Calderstones
- Cambridge University Hospitals, Addenbrookes
- Central And N/W London, Park Royal
- Central Manchester, Central Manchester
- Chesterfield Royal NHS FT, Chesterfield Royal
- County Durham And Darlington (Ex County Durham PCT), Richardson Hospital
- Devon Partnership, Langdon
- Dorset Healthcare, Blandford
- East Cheshire NHS Trust, Congleton
- Gloucestershire, Cheltenham General
- Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare, Hinchingsbrooke
- Humber NHS FT, East Riding Community
- Kent And Medway Partnership, Thanet
- Leeds Teaching, St James
- Leicester University, Leicester Royal
- Leicestershire Partnership, Evington Centre
- Liverpool Heart And Chest, Liverpool Heart And Chest
- Manchester Mh And Sc, Park House
- Medway Maritime NHSFT, Medway Maritime
- Morecambe Bay NHS FT, Royal Lancaster
- Norfolk And Norwich, Norfolk And Norwich
- Norfolk And Suffolk NHS FT, Hellesdon
- North Cumbria University, Cumberland Infirmary
- North Staffs Combined, Harplands
- Nottingham University, Nottingham City
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare, Rampton High Secure
- Nuffield, Plymouth
- Papworth Hospital NHS FT, Papworth
- Pennine Acute, North Manchester
- Pennine Care, Fairfield General
- Plymouth Hospitals NHS T, Derriford
- Queen Victoria, Queen Victoria
- Ramsay Healthcare, Colchester
- Royal Brompton, Royal Brompton
- Royal Liverpool And Broadgreen, Royal Liverpool
- Royal National Orthopaedic, Stanmore
- Royal Wolverhampton, New Cross
- S/W Yorkshire Partnership, Fieldhead
- Salisbury NHSFT, Salisbury
- Sheffield Children's, Sheffield Children's
- Sheffield Teaching, Northern General
- South Staffordshire An Shropshire Healthcare, St George's

- South Tees, Friarage Hospital
- South Warwickshire NHS FT, Leamington Spa
- South West London And St Georges, Springfield
- Southern Health, Parklands
- Southport And Ormskirk, Ormskirk
- Spire Healthcare, Harpenden
- St Georges Healthcare, St Georges
- Surrey Community, Woking Community
- Tees Esk And Wear Valley, West Park
- Uclh, Heart Hospital
- University Hospitals Bristol, St Micheals
- West Kent , Gravesham
- West London Mh, St Bernards
- Western Sussex, St Richards & Worthing
- Worcester Acute, Redditch
- Yeovil District NHSFT, Yeovil District
- York Teaching, York