

# Cystic Fibrosis our focus

## **Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, adult centre**

The service at Northern General Hospital provides care for 170 adults with cystic fibrosis, with excellent, purpose-built inpatient facilities, and a new outpatient facility housing the clinics. The specialist multidisciplinary team (MDT) is enthusiastic and skilled, but under-resourced.

The service has instituted a microsystems approach to continually evaluate performance and improve efficiency, and has begun an innovative research programme to address the issue of adherence to therapy.

Areas of excellence identified in user feedback included the cleanliness and cross-infection procedures of the outpatient facilities and the accessibility of the CF team. Areas for improvement identified included outpatient waiting times, the food and car parking facilities.

The review panel commended the dedicated and experienced MDT, the purpose-built CF ward and the team's microsystems approach to evaluating and improving the service as good practice examples. Key recommendations included an urgent need to address staffing levels within the MDT, in particular physiotherapy, medical staffing, pharmacy and psychology, and cross-cover arrangements that further exacerbate the staffing shortfall. The provision of secretarial and administrative care was also identified as needing improvement, allowing the MDT to utilise their specialist skills more efficiently.

The panel identified the need to deliver a seven-day working model as one of the areas of further consideration, which will require an appropriate increase in specialist staff. It is recommended that the Trust commit to a step-change to deliver a 24/7 service to secure long term sustainability of the service.