

Clinical Excellence Awards Round 2012

1. Timeline

Due to the Department of Health consultation, the Clinical Excellence Award (CEA) round for 2012 was delayed until August this year. Applications were required to be sent in electronically by 14th August, along with an agreed job plan, and the meeting of the panel was scheduled for 22nd October. Letters were sent out notifying applicants of the panel's decision on 24th October. The deadline for submission of the subsequent report to the ACCEA was 28th January.

2. Selection and training of the panel

Consultant members of the panel were selected from volunteers. This selection was agreed between the Medical Director and the Local Negotiating Committee, and attention was paid to equality and diversity as part of this process. Other members of the panel were chosen according to the Trust's local agreement regarding CEAs. The panel was chaired by the Trust Chairman, Mr Joe Liddane, and contained three lay members (as recommended by national CEA guidelines). Training was provided for the panel members based on the guidance documents available online, and the documents themselves were also distributed to the panel; this included guidance around confidentiality. All members of the panel had undertaken equality and diversity training in some form.

3. Level 9 renewals

There were no Level 9 awards due for renewal this year.

4. Community awards for 2011

Due to the Trust becoming an Integrated Care Organisation, consultants in the community had missed out on one CEA round in 2011. Therefore, the three points from 2011 were held and distributed in a separate round which only included the community consultants before the main 2012 round was discussed.

5. Distribution of points

The panel received 38 applications by the deadline of 14th August. 3 points were distributed for the community round of 2011 and 21 points for the 2012 round. The details of this distribution can be seen in the attached report sent to the ACCEA on 15th January.

6. Observation and learning points

The panel meeting was observed by Marion Stern, an external representative of the ACCEA. Her report concluded that the meeting 'was open and fair, with a thorough and lively discussion', but also indicated that there needed to be more training for consultants on the necessity of evidencing claims and providing dates, so that the quality of the submitted forms would be improved.

It was suggested during the panel meeting that the forms could be adapted for local use: it has now been confirmed that this is not possible under ACCEA rules. However, greater training for the consultants in completing these forms would be of value.

7. Feedback and appeals

Feedback was offered to all applicants who had not received an award via Martin Kuper, the new Medical Director, who had sat on the panel. There have been no appeals.

8. Future rounds

It is unclear what the future of Clinical Excellence Awards will be; we await further information from the Department of Health.