

The PCT is committed to a 'zero tolerance' approach to care acquired infections and has made significant progress towards this goal by reducing infections to below national rates. This reflects the commitment and attention that has been given to this important aspect of patient safety at all levels of the organisation.

In pursuit of this goal we have introduced patient screening for MRSA. This gives us an opportunity to identify and try to eradicate this bacteria from a patient either prior to hospital admission or whilst they are in our care. Not only will this reduce MRSA infections, but it allows us to reduce the risk of a more serious infection for the individual patient and reduces the risk of passing the infection to others.

In Wolverhampton we have taken this proactive approach to screening one step further and are screening patients who are cared for in the community and residential setting with a view to reduce the individual risk of more serious infection and the transfer of the infection to others outside of NHS hospitals.

Details of our approach can be found in the publication "MRSA Screening Strategy" and there is a patient information leaflet which details the screening programme.

Jon Crockett

**Chief Executive**