

11 November 2008

Hopkins concerned at rise in assaults on local hospital staff

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has said that more must be done to protect hospital workers after new figures revealed an increase in the number of staff assaulted at Airedale NHS Trust in 2007/08.

Official statistics just published by the NHS Security Management Service (SMS) showed that 23 assaults were committed against Airedale NHS Trust staff in the last year, an increase of seven from 2006/07.

Across England as a whole, 55,993 physical assaults were reported against NHS staff – a rise of 284 on last year's figure.

Cllr Hopkins commented:

“NHS staff, whether they work at Airedale Hospital or elsewhere, should be able to go about their tasks without fear of attack.

“Unfortunately, many health workers have come to accept that some level of violence or abuse is part of their job but this should not be the case.

“Thankfully the number of reported assaults on Airedale staff is fewer than in many other Trusts, but the trend is still upward which is greatly disturbing.

“I believe the Government should have this issue further up their agenda because the greatest strength of the NHS is its workforce.

“Everything that can be done to make hospital staff safer must be done without any hesitation.”

ENDS