

Improving Hospital Mealtimes

Each year our staff and volunteer team carrying a large number of [Patient Led Assessments of the Care Environment \(PLACE\)](#) to support local hospitals to improve on the cleanliness and maintenance of patient areas. These assessments include looking at how patients are supported during mealtimes.

Last year we were disappointed to see the way patients at **Zachary Merton Hospital, Rustington** were not supported during mealtimes.

As well as failing the Trust on this area of the PLACE assessment, we had a number of discussions with the Trust about this.

We went back to the hospital in March (2017) and were pleased to see a big improvement to mealtime has been made.

Staff proudly shared the fantastic effect their Queen's birthday celebration had on patients and are looking at what they can do this year.

We would encourage **YOU** to share your story, good or bad, with us so we can support those who plan, buy, monitor and provide health and care to improve services by learning from peoples lived experiences.

Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust, runs **Zachary Merton Hospital**, and have spent out on redecorating the dining room. It is now a bright and interactive area for patients to enjoy. It has a reminiscence shop, and a historical Littlehampton wall-scape, to engage patients, particularly those living with dementia.

Staff can be seen supporting people to be ready for their meal and are on hand to offer assistance if needed.

New menus will be available shortly and we have encouraged the Trust to produce easy read menus.



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