

259th Meeting, Thursday 2nd February, 2017, Mount Vernon Hospital

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. **Welcome:** In the absence of the Chairman due to sudden illness, Vice Chairman James Kincaid took the chair and welcomed all present, including visitors, and in particular our guest speaker, Graham Hawkes.
- b. **Apologies:** Julian Maw (*Hatch End Association.*), Valerie Rees (*League of Jewish Women Northwood*), Valerie Mellor (*Northwood RA*), Pamela Grimwade & Mary Perkins (*Mountwood PPG.*) Joan Davis & Donald Edwards (*Ruislip RA*), Sadie Wright (*Southbourne WI*), Owen & Jill Cock, Mary Butcher, Neville Hughes (*Individual Members*)
- c. **Announcements:** The acting Chairman was sorry to have to report the deaths of two long-standing members, Paul Samet, for a number of years Joint Vice Chairman, and Essie Harris delegate for the League of Jewish Women. Both had been regular attenders in the past and would be greatly missed.
- d. **Application for membership:** David Potter had applied for individual membership, which Council was delighted to endorse.

e. GUEST SPEAKER:

The planned speaker from Action for Hearing Loss (formerly RNID) had had to withdraw suddenly and we were very grateful to Graham Hawkes, Chief Officer of Hillingdon Healthwatch, for stepping in at very short notice. Graham addressed the subject of the planned changes in services as reflected in the STP – Sustainability and Transformation Plan - and agreed by all eight of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in NW London.

- a. As people were living longer, and therefore with more medical conditions, the use of more preventive measures to reduce the need for hospitalisation was becoming greater.
- b. Some aspects of the Plan had already been implemented, most notably the concentration of acute services into the North-West London's five major hospitals, with the remaining four hospitals performing non-acute and community functions.
- c. In the community, both Hillingdon and Harrow had each identified the need for three community service "hubs". Hillingdon planned one in the north of the borough at Mount Vernon Hospital and hoped to identify a site for a central hub in the St Andrews development in Uxbridge, with the third hub at the Hesa Unit in Hayes. Harrow had two hubs already up and running, at the Pinn Medical Centre and at the Alexandra Avenue Walk-In Service. The third, in the north, will go live shortly.
- d. The aims of the STP can be summarised as:
 - i. Improving levels of prevention (more like firefighting at present!)
 - ii. Eliminating postcode variations and improving management of long-term conditions.
 - iii. More care of older people, eg reducing isolation (which impacts on health)
 - iv. Mental health – service to be more community based for all ages.
 - v. Sustaining the highest quality of acute services (hospitals).
- e. The STP is an impressive plan, aiming to change the nature of many services and the role of GPs but major investment will be needed and with massive deficits across various NW London Trusts, as well as 65% of hospital beds occupied by over-65s, there is a need to be realistic about the time scale for major change,
- f. One change at least could be imminent, with CCGs preparing to vote on 22 February on the possible reallocation of budget control from NHS England to the CCGs.

The speaker then answered a variety of questions, was thanked by the acting Chairman and departed to audience applause.

PART II

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - Thursday 1st December 2016.

These were accepted as correct

3. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

4. URGENT BUSINESS:

a. January a discussion meeting (no minutes): It was agreed that a Hard of Hearing campaign should be considered, but no volunteers were forthcoming to tackle the planning. Deferred to next meeting.

b. Next Year's subscription: The Treasurer recommended no change to the current rates of £22 per organisation, £10 per individual and £14 for two individuals at one address and one mailing. Delegates would refer to their respective organisations and a decision would be confirmed at our March meeting. New subs. become due on 1st April.

c. CNWL Gem Awards: These annual awards are presented at a gala dinner to CNWL staff whose performances have been rated outstanding. This year, there was a special award, made by the CEO of CNWL, Claire Murdoch, to Community Voice Chair Joan Davis, which was wholly unexpected by Joan. The award, accompanied by a bouquet of flowers, a trophy engraved "for outstanding advocacy in the NHS" was acclaimed by the whole room. No more than Joan deserved, but a great compliment also to The Community Voice.

d. Items on display in the outer hall: These included not only copies of various NHS Board meetings attended by members of our Executive, but also copies of Prof. Mervyn Stone's latest letter to the Uxbridge Gazette on the continuing anomaly of the wholly inaccurate funding formula by which NHS funds are allocated to CCGs. Letters from other members, serving to endorse Mervyn's contentions could well be useful and it would be good to see some members rising to the challenge.

5. OPEN FORUM:

No points were raised.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd March at 7.45pm in the Post Graduate Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital, when our guest speaker will be Katie Fisher, Chief Executive Officer West Herts. Hospitals Trust, updating us on developments at her Trust and plans for the future.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

Chairman

Mrs Joan Davis

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Hon. Treasurer

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