

**248th Meeting, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, at Mount Vernon Hospital.**

**Attendance:** 33 members and guests

**1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

- a. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all present to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, particularly our guests of honour, David McVittie, Chief Executive of The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT 2001-2012, and subsequently Chief Executive of London North West Healthcare NHS Trust and its precursor trusts, 2012-2015, and Stephen Ramsden OBE, Chief Executive of Mount Vernon Hospital NHS Trust in 1990, when the Community Voice was formed.
- b. Announcements :**
- **Application for membership:** Gillian Gerrard had applied for individual membership, which Council was delighted to approve – she was welcomed with warm applause.
  - **The video of the event:** Anyone reluctant to appear on video was asked to move out of range.
- c. Apologies:** Mike Gordon (*Harefield Tenants & RA*), Essie Harris and Valery Rees (*League of Jewish Women N'wood*), Tony Ellis (*Live at Home N'wood*), Margaret Bishop and Jan Sutton (*Mount Vernon Comforts Fund*), Andrew Riley (*N'wood Hills RA*), Liz Warren (*Pinn Medical Centre Patients' Assoc.*), Paul Espley (*Uxbridge & S. Ruislip Labour Party*) Janet Baddeley, Susan Grunewald, Neville Hughes, Jean McFarlane, Margaret Ross (*Individual Members*), Jean Dixon (*Guest*)

**2. GUEST SPEAKER :** David McVittie was welcomed as guest speaker. He reviewed the many changes in the NHS during the 25 years since the advent of The Community Voice.

- a.** He started by congratulating The Community Voice on achieving its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which echoes his own time in the NHS.
- b.** His career started in accountancy with Price-Waterhouse-Cooper and British Telecom, before being head-hunted by the large NHS Health Authority in Bloomsbury, where ten months later he became Acting Chief Executive. From there he moved as Chief Executive to the smaller Lewisham Health Authority where he met excellent relationships but tough decisions, including closing a hospital. His next move was to Hillingdon Hospital, as Chief Executive, including Mount Vernon.
- c.** Media attention has helped NHS services by both involving people in the way the NHS is run and by giving them a voice. He believed that Mount Vernon has thrived long-term, despite issues with both the Cancer Centre and the Treatment Centre, and that it has a bright and secure future.
- d.** The period with more NHS money led to the introduction of targets. Contracts were rationalised. Age-related discrimination improved. A gold standard service for myocardial infarcts was introduced, but cancer treatment lagged, partially due to late diagnosis, where early diagnosis is vital. However, the number of consultants doubled and time pressures escalated.
- e.** Lessons should be learnt, such as reduction in mortality may not lead to a better quality of life. It may be considered that a disproportionate amount of money has gone into rarer diseases. Life expectancy for males has increased by three years between 2003 and 2013, but longer life has resulted in more years with disabilities.
- f.** On average, NHS Chief Executives are now only three years in office. There are no “magic bullets” to success, but integration with social care is strongly favoured. The cultures and values of an organisation are very important in achieving positive outcomes, but there is always a need to listen.
- g.** Significant changes have happened and are continuing to happen – infection control, growing of body parts, keyhole surgery, centralisation and the rationalisation of the number of hospitals, a focus on obesity control, mental health, drugs and alcohol, self-care and expert patients.

- h. Every generation convinces itself that it cannot afford health care and considers solutions such as insurance and patients contributing to costs. Changes need to evolve gradually, but the NHS is not like a commercial venture, nor like a shop with sales targets.
- i. Enthusiasm and passion - shared by NHS staff and many NHS patients, such as those within the Community Voice - have kept people such as himself and Stephen Ramsden "on their toes".

The Chairman noted that so many interesting issues had been raised that she dared not allow questions because of time pressures, but she hoped that informal discussion would be possible after the meeting was adjourned.

James Kincaid thanked the speaker on behalf of the audience, which was endorsed by long applause.

Stephen Ramsden was then invited to say a few words.

- He noted that he started at Mount Vernon Hospital in 1988, where he met the Defence Committee led by Mike Turner, which was set up to campaign against closure of that hospital.
- Subsequently, he was delighted to encourage the formation of the Community Voice, a unique organisation even today because of its breadth of coverage of NHS services.
- He noted the interest of the Kings' Fund in the early years and he acknowledged the input of particular members, Mike Turner, David Horne, James Kincaid and Joan Davis.
- He was thanked by the Chairman

## Part II

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> November were agreed and signed as correct.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

### 5. URGENT BUSINESS:

**a. Northwood and Pinner Hospital Site:** Petition signatures will be accepted into the New Year so members were urged to collect signatures at seasonal events later in December, to swell the total number collected.

**b. Our meeting on Thursday 7th January 2016:**

This will be a discussion meeting, with no guest speaker. The focus will be:

- Local mental health issues
- Our campaigns
- Recruitment to The Community Voice.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The Chairman noted that we have no mailing in December.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** The next meeting will be at 7.45 pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Post Graduate Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital, doors open 7.30pm,

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 our guest speakers will be Stephen Posey, Deputy Chief Executive East & North Herts. Hospitals NHS Trust (as Chief Executive Nick Carver will be in Scotland) and Sean DeGaris, Chief Executive, The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT, who will jointly update us on plans for the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and the Mount Vernon Hospital site.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.10pm to celebrate in the outer hall the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Community Voice and the start of the festive season. David McVittie had arrived with a splendid anniversary cake and a number of small cakes iced with "25". During the celebrations token gifts were presented to both the honoured guests to mark our appreciation of their support over all our years

Joan Davis, Chairman

Notes:

Proposals for corrections to draft Minutes should be submitted to the Chairman in writing – please 'phone 01895 636095 for address details.

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Chairman

Mrs Joan Davis

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Hon. Secretary

Mrs. Margaret Ross,

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Hon. Treasurer

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