

Chairman

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Joan Davis

Mr Jon Spain

Website. www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk.

Email. joandavis@onetel.com

Email. jonesse@ntlworld.com

Tel. 01895 636095

Tel. 020 8537 2835

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1. Wednesday 22nd March: **Hillingdon Hospital Patient Safety Champion event:** Event 0930 – 1530 at Hillingdon Hospital to identify FT members willing to take on roles to represent the public in the Trust. To find out more Tel. Lesley Roberts 01895 279752
2. Saturday 8th April: **Michael Sobell Hospice Easter Eggstravaganza:** An Easter egg hunt at Mount Vernon. No child will leave empty handed!
3. Saturday 6th May: **Michael Sobell Hospice Annual Plant Sale:** In the gardens of Michael Sobell Hospice.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. **Per Capita Spending on Health Care:** The Kings Fund, using World Health Organisation data has shown a widening gap between nations. UK's GDP is forecast to grow by around 15.2% by 2020/21 but NHS funding by only 5.2%. If NHS spending kept pace with economic growth, it would spend around £16 billion more than planned. However, comparing countries' healthcare spending is not easy. Total spending, public plus private, is usually compared as a proportion of the countries' GDP, which indicates that the UK is a relatively average spender on health care compared to other World Health Organisation countries but below average compared to near neighbours.

LONDON REGIONAL NEWS

Central & North West London FT

1. **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services:** The 18 weeks waiting times target for these patients has not been met for several months, due to demand exceeding capacity, particularly in Brent and Hillingdon. However it should be noted that the problem is wider than just Brent, Harrow and Hillingdon as in a recent national CAMHS benchmarking report, the national waiting time average for CAMHS treatment was 26 weeks. Additional investment received by the service led to three new psychologists starting on 5th December in West London, which led to improvement.
2. **Care Quality Commission Inspections:** After the full February 2015 CQC inspection, the Trust's Acute Adult Mental Health Wards and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit were rated as Inadequate. Having been re-inspected, that rating has been changed to an overall rating of Good.
3. **The November Finance Report:** This showed the Trust on track to meet its 2016/17 control total agreed with NHS England, a deficit of £1m, but achieved only with the help of non-recurrent savings.
4. **Recruitment:** In the last three months 361 new staff started work, 229 left, 167 were offered jobs and they are interviewing 481 from 1169 applications – they are trying hard!

London Ambulance Service

1. **Basics:** LAS has over 5,000 staff, around 3,300 frontline crews in ambulance stations, 500 people in its two 999 control rooms and hundreds of support staff in its offices across the city. Its 999 service is purchased by Clinical Commissioning Groups and monitored by NHS England, but ultimately LAS is responsible to the Department of Health. (*LAS website and Hillingdon External Scrutiny Committee papers Jan. 2017*)

Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS FT:

- 1. Development with Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS FT of a joint critical care service for children:** This will increase capacity and flexibility at Royal Brompton Hospital, with greater presence of C&W's surgeons and other clinicians on that site.
- 2. A specialist North West London "hub" for children's services:** The 2016 threat to decommission RB&H's congenital heart disease service posed whether the above collaboration should extend to Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust: The paediatric services of all three trusts are threatened by the RB&H proposals, so they want to work towards a joint specialist paediatric service. They are identifying gaps in NW London and neighbouring counties services in order to submit this to the NHS England's consultation on its CHD proposals and to the paediatric critical care and surgery reviews.
- 3. Care Quality Commission Inspection Report:** The inspection last June led to an overall rating of Requires Improvement, considered disappointing by the Trust although it was encouraged by the many positive practices noted in the report. A summit is planned with the CQC for early February.
- 4. New post for a whole time Consultant in Radiology:** In particular this post will support cardiac and vascular imaging. The post is likely to be equally split between the Chelsea and Harefield sites.
- 5. Research papers:** Each year, peer-reviewed scientific journals such as *The Lancet* and *New England Journal of Medicine* publish between 500 and 600 papers by researchers associated with the Trust. (*Hillingdon External Scrutiny Committee papers Jan. 2017*)

HARROW NEWS

London North-West Healthcare NHS Trust

- 1. Finance:** The year to date deficit at end of December was £47.4m, £0.8m behind plan.
- 2. New Intensive Care Unit opens at Northwick Park Hospital:** This unit has seven beds, three from elsewhere in that hospital plus four from Central Middlesex Hospital.
- 3. Three Trust projects shortlisted for national awards:** Two hope for a Health Service Journal Award - one improved length of hospital stays and discharge processes, the other developed an online microbiology and antibiotics consultation service, reducing hospital acquired infections and costs. Winners will know in May. Also Radio Harrow is shortlisted in three categories in the March Hospital Broadcasting Association. Awards.
- 4. From coffee shop to nurse on the wards:** Octavia Goncalves from Portugal worked in Central Middlesex Hospital's coffee shop in 2006. She was encouraged to apply for a housekeeping job in the Emergency Department, which inspired her to train as a nurse. Having qualified, she now works on wards at Northwick Park Hospital! (*LNWHT website*)

Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group (*Harrow CCG website*)

- 1. Northwick Park Hospital Urgent Care Centre:** Harrow CCG, supported by the hospital Trust, is awarding the contract to run this UCC to Greenbrook Healthcare.
- 2. Changes to primary care supervision:** Local primary care decisions are currently made jointly by the CCG and NHS England. Proposals now under consideration by Harrow CCG and some other CCGs, would give full responsibility to the local CCG without NHSE involvement.
- 3. Urgent Care Centres:** These treat minor illnesses and injuries without an appointment. Patients see a GP or an experienced nurse. There are four local walk-in centres:
 - Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre: 275 Alexandra Avenue, Rayners Lane HA2 9DX Open: 8am-8pm, seven days a week Tel: 020 8966 6300
 - The Pinn Medical Centre: 37 Love Lane Pinner, HA5 3EE, Open: 8am-8pm, seven days a week Tel: 020 8866 5766
 - The Belmont Health Centre: 516 Kenton Lane, Harrow HA3 7LT
 - Northwick Park Hospital Urgent Care Centre: Watford Road, Harrow, HA1 3UJ, open 24 hours, 7 days a week Tel: 020 8864 3232 (*Harrow CCG website*)

HILLINGDON NEWS

The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT

- 1. December's Integrated Quality and Performance:** There were no cases of clostridium difficile. Falls rose to 5.2 per 1000 bed days, below national average but above the Trust's own target. Elective surgery had to be reduced in December due to demand through the Emergency Department. The A&E waiting time target was not achieved, with only 79.8% seen, treated and out within four hours. London Ambulance Service work increased by 5.2% compared with last year but blue light activity increased by 24% - but despite that increase in acuity, the admission rate reduced by 11.4%.
- 2. Staffing issues:** In December the vacancy rate dropped to 9.95%. The turnover rate stayed at 15%. Staff sickness rate was 3.7%. Expenditure on Bank and Agency staff was £1,850,039 an in month increase of £92,230. Compared with December 2015 there was a net increase of 214 whole time equivalent staff.
- 3. Finance:** The December year to date position was a deficit of £1,032k, £3,135k better than plan due to property revaluation, which was increased by £7,305k

Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group

- 1. Pilot offering pre-bookable GP evening appointments:** The pilot is in Hayes. Extension to other parts of Hillingdon are expected to follow in about two months.
- 2. Winter pressures:** The CCG, London Borough Hillingdon and NHS providers of care are working together to improve hospital discharge facilities. The GP weekend visiting service to nursing homes is being extended to cover all homes in the Borough.
- 3. Provision of hubs in the centre and north of Hillingdon:** Plans continue to be developed. The possibility of a hub on the St Andrew site, Uxbridge, is being explored.

Hillingdon Local News

- 1. A Brunel Health Campus:** THH is working with Brunel University and CNWL to develop a university health campus on the Brunel University site comprising a new medical centre to replace Hillingdon Hospital and an Academic Centre for Health Sciences (ACHS). This plans to integrate acute, primary and community physical and mental health services with social care, and also to educate a workforce for the 21st century, and to engage in research. Phase 1 will set up the ACHS. *(THH's The Pulse, Spring 2017 edition)*
- 2. Hillingdon Health and Care Partners:** These are THH, CNWL, H4All – a federation of voluntary sector partners comprising Hillingdon Age UK, Harlington Hospice, DASH, MIND Hillingdon, and Hillingdon Carers – plus the four Hillingdon GP networks, due to become Hillingdon GP federation from April 2017, named Hillingdon Health and Care Partners, when it will operate in shadow / test form with a pooled budget of circa £32m. This involves whole THH departments where patients are aged 65 years and over.

SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE

West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust

- 1. Watford Health Campus:** *(From www.watfordhealthcampus.org)* This long-term scheme will take 15 to 20 years to complete, bringing affordable new homes – planning permission for the first Willow Lane homes is expected in Spring 2017 – local community facilities and shops, and new businesses creating up to 1300 new jobs - the first industrial zone, Trade City Watford, is under construction and will open in summer 2017.
- 2. New access to Watford Hospital and other attractions:** The new road is already open. The new Metropolitan Line station, Watford Vicarage Road, will be only a short walking distance away. Both will greatly benefit the hospital's patients. New landscaped green open spaces are planned including riverside walks beside the River Colne. There will also be a community garden where local people can grow fresh produce.
- 3. Trust Finance:** The in-month December deficit of £2.8m was in line with budget, despite Agency spend of £2.6m. The year to date deficit was £20.1m. Action plans hope to achieve the full year deficit budget, with a focus on Cost Improvement Programmes, but achieving the full year control total of £24.4m will be very challenging.

Herts. Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group

- 1. Defining the CCG:** Herts Valleys CCG consists of the four localities of Hertsmere, Dacorum, St Albans and Harpenden, and Watford and Three Rivers. There are 70 GP practices within these localities. Herts Valley CCG commissions local hospital services, mental health services and community services such as community nurses, therapists and others. The CCG also works closely with the local council, organisations that provide services, voluntary organisations and local people including patients and carers.
- 2. Introduction of an integrated urgent care service:** This aims to give quick and easy access to health help when it's urgent, but not an emergency. Herts Urgent Care, a not-for-profit organisation which is the current provider of NHS 111 and out-of-hours GP care in Hertfordshire has been chosen to run the new service from June 2017.

Herts. Partnership University NHS FT (HPFT) *(From HPFT website)*

- 1. HPFT Services:** HPFT provides all NHS mental health and specialist learning disability services in Hertfordshire. The Trust also provides specialist learning disability services in Norfolk and North Essex. Its HQ is in The Colonnades, Beaconsfield Road, Hatfield, but its services are provided in NHS hospitals and clinics eg Watford and Luton hospitals.
- 2. A plea for items to display:** HPFT wants items to display in its newly refurbished buildings. It has a limited budget to purchase and frame art by people with experience of mental health or specialist learning disability services. It wants drawings, mixed media, paintings, photography, poetry, prints. It welcomes work by children and young people. For application details contact katie.tyssen@hpft.nhs.uk or Tel: 07887 778449

GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

Virtual reality headsets may help intensive care recovery *(From RB&H website)*

An innovative virtual reality solution to prevent delirium in patients recovering after major surgery is being tested at Harefield Hospital. Reflecting on the anxiety felt by many patients immediately before their surgery, and the alien environment created in intensive care units by high-tech equipment and unusual sounds, consultant cardiac surgeon [Mr Sunil Bhudia](#) has developed a solution to familiarise patients with the environment and minimise confusion when they wake.

Post-operative delirium (extreme confusion) affects up to 50% of those undergoing major surgery and more than 80% of critically ill patients. The distressing condition is associated with increased morbidity and mortality, prolonged cognitive impairment and extended hospital recovery times.

Mr Bhudia's innovation involves showing patients a recording of a typical journey from the ward to the operating theatre and then to the intensive therapy unit (ITU), through a virtual reality headset before their surgery. He has already made a prototype film by placing a 360 degree camera on a hospital bed at Harefield Hospital and recording the journey. The recording is all from the perspective of patients as they are wheeled from place to place. Mr Bhudia now plans to run a pilot study using a more refined and high-definition recording of two wards, plus a noisy true-to-life ITU environment.

This is the first time virtual reality technology has been used as a solution to help patients recover from surgery. Headsets are more commonly used as a training tool to allow surgeons to practise in a virtual environment.

Mr Bhudia's work has been recognised by Digital Health London, a collaboration between three academic health science centres and the Mayor of London. The organisation draws on the expertise of leading NHS professionals such as Mr Bhudia to pioneer the development and adoption of digital technologies in health and social care to improve health outcomes, and has named him Clinician of the Month.

"The potential of using virtual reality goes far beyond cardiac surgery, as post-operative delirium can happen after any major operation," Mr Bhudia added. "There is the potential to expand its use onto other intensive care units across the NHS." Read more about Mr Bhudia's work on the [Digital Health London website](#)