



NEWS-SHEET—FEBRUARY 2016

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Paul Strickland Cancer Centre. Based at Mount Vernon Hospital, our charity provides scanning services for the early diagnosis, monitoring and research into cancer and other life-limiting diseases. Help raise funds by taking part in any of the events below or contact us to make a donation on 01923 844290 or email appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk.

Bridge Drive Monday 21 March, 10.30 am for 11.0 am start West Herts Golf Club, Cassiobury Park, Rousebarn Lane, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3GG. Entry £14.50 per person. Includes lunch, raffle and prizes Chicago Bridge format Please bring own cards and lunch cloth. Advance bookings 01923 844290. All proceeds to the scanner appeal.

Chenies Spring Walk Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May, start 11.0 am, Chenies Manor, WD3 6ER. Advance entry £8, or £10 on the day (under 14s free) and this includes free entry into the manor's Tulip Gardens. Take a beautiful walk through the Chess Valley, the route is a five-mile circular walk but there are three shortcuts available. This year there will also be an owl hunt for children taking part in the walk.

NATIONAL NEWS

NHS missing many key targets. NHS England's figures for November 2015 showed that ambulances missed their targets to answer 75 per cent of the most serious 999 calls in eight minutes—the sixth month in a row that this has not been achieved.

A&E. Units missed their target to see, treat, or discharge patients within four hours. For the fourteenth time in 15 months performance dropped below 95 per cent.

At the end of the month 1.6 per cent of patients had been waiting more than six weeks for diagnostic tests—above the one per cent target.

One of the key cancer targets—the 62-day target for treatment to start—was missed with 83.5 per cent of patients seen in that time frame, below the 85 per cent target. The 111 phone service missed its target to answer 95 per cent of calls within 60 seconds. One in 10 patients waited longer. Significant problems were also experienced in discharge of some patients from hospitals with 153,000 days of delay, the second highest on record.

HARROW NEWS

London North-West Healthcare NHS Trust

New wards. Three new wards next to A&E with 63 beds were opened on 18 January. This £14 million state-of-the-art development should improve patient flow by helping to speed up patient pathways from A&E to ward bed and safe discharge.

Junior doctors' dispute. As a direct result, 18 elective and 688 outpatients appointments were cancelled. Fifty members of staff took part in the action so new appointments will be given according to priorities and extra clinics run.

'Breaking The Circle'. Despite the recent increase in demand for services, the new initiative has helped reduce the number of London Ambulance Service waits, discharge patients earlier in the day and to reduce the time patients wait in A&E for a bed. A new

service is ensuring frail elderly patients receive best care and is making improvements to social care and community services in the management of long-stay patients.

Fighting flu. The national target of 75 per cent of staff vaccination had not been reached. Only 35.5 per cent of staff had agreed to be vaccinated by mid-January.

Ealing emergency department. Receptionists have received a commendation for "Outstanding contribution to community safety in Ealing" from the Metropolitan Police.

The Denham Unit was relocated from Harrow to Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH) on 8 January. It is based on the former Roundwood 1 Ward.

ENT services at Ealing Hospital. Since 18 January, ENT services from Ealing Hospital are now provided by clinicians from Northwick Park Hospital (NPH) and CMH rather than Imperial College Healthcare. Patients will continue to be seen at Ealing and listed for surgery at NPH or CMH at first, with expansion into Ealing over the next couple of months.

Shaping A Healthier Future update. The North-West London Clinical Board considered the Independent Healthcare Commission's report before issuing their final review of the SaHF programme in early December 2015. They concluded the current programme continues to offer the best outcomes, experience and equality of access to NHS services for patients.

The trust is making preparations for dealing with major incidents (terror attacks) in light of recent tragic events in Paris. NHS England and Department of Health are seeking confirmation and assurance from all acute trusts that they have plans and systems in place to respond to a similar style Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) in Britain.

Finance. The income and expenditure position is a deficit of £76.3 million, £10.3 million behind plan. Capital expenditure is £24.3 million to date, £5.7 million behind plan.

Neonatal mortality. Collected nationally but reporting now for 2013. The trust was green for stillbirths (expected position), yellow for extended perinatal deaths (better than expected) and amber for perinatal deaths (greater than expected). The report recommends review of any amber and red grades. This has been completed and no pattern has been found requiring remedial action. Using trust's own data, subsequent years have been reviewed and extended perinatal mortalities numbers are low.

Local MP **Gareth Thomas** has claimed that two walk-in clinics in Harrow are under threat of privatisation. The 8.0 am-8.0 pm centres at Alexandra Avenue and the Pinn Medical Centre could be privatised under plans being overseen by the NHS Procurement Authority to put out-of-hours services in the borough out to tender. Tender documents have been prepared and are now available to private corporate health companies, who can bid against local GPs to run the service. If the companies offer a cheaper service, the local CCG will have to have strong reasons not to award them the contract.

The Harrow West MP feels it was wrong that the Harrow CCG was having to spend money on the tendering process and that Harrow patients will receive better care from borough GPs rather than corporate managers. He said: "It is extremely worrying that new rules introduced by the Conservative government mean these services are now at risk of privatisation. At a time when Harrow residents have received the lowest amount of health funding per head over the last three years, it is wrong that the CCG is now having to spend money on an expensive tendering process. I hope local GPs will be allowed to continue to run this vital local service."

Set up and run by local GPs, Alexandra Avenue and the Pinn Medical Centre allow any local residents to walk in off the street and see a nurse or doctor without an appointment. These services have helped to ease some of the pressure on Northwick Park Hospital.

HILLINGDON NEWS

The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). Every health and care system must produce its own plan for October 2016 to March 2021 to meet the NHS planning guidance *Delivering the Forward View*, with first steps in place by 29 January 2016. The framework identifies 37 local health and care economies for this purpose with an average population

of 1.5 million within NHS England's 12 clinical senates. With a population of two million people, NW London will be one of the largest health and care economies—the defined area has the same boundaries as the *Shaping a Healthier Future* community.

Healthwatch Hillingdon Operational Priorities 2016-2017. There are four priorities Unsafe discharge from hospitals; Maternity, following the closure of services at Ealing Hospital; Hillingdon care homes and Child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing.

Integrated Quality and Performance report. *Clostridium difficile.* To end of December there were 10 cases against a whole year target of eight, and a further case in January is being investigated.

Hospital acquired pressure ulcers. On target year to date.

Staffing. Vacancy numbers rose by 0.28 per cent in December compared to 2014. The current vacancy rate is 10.26 per cent. In December 2015 the Trust made 152 offers of employment with 50 new starters during the month. There was a nine per cent increase in staff compared with December 2014.

Finance. Year-end revenue forecast is now a deficit of £1.5m. Year-end forecast capital expenditure has been reduced by £900k, which reflects the slippage on the paediatric scheme, moving expenditure from this financial year into next.

Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

CCG elections. Every year three GPs stand down from the Governing Body, one from each locality. This year the three are Dr Goodman (North locality), Dr Garsin (Uxbridge and West Drayton) and Dr Gudi (South) but they are entitled to re-stand for election if nominated. Effective 1 April 2016.

Finance. In December 2015, the CCG achieved its year-to-date planned surplus of £2.611 million and it was forecasting a revised surplus of £7.482 million by year-end, £4 million above plan. which will be carried forward into 2016-2017.

Mental health services November 2015. Difficulties in finding placements for patients led to delayed transfers of care from acute beds.

Children and adolescent mental health services experienced an increase in referrals, which led to pressures on waiting times. Capacity is being addressed through a recruitment plan, following agreement on additional funding. A new system is being implemented, with patients being made aware of appointments being available outside normal hours.

A&E services. Neither Hillingdon nor Northwick Park hospitals achieved the target to admit or treat and discharge 95 per cent of patients within four hours in November 2015. At Hillingdon Hospital an additional medical consultant is now on site in A&E 12 hours a day over weekends, to help expedite discharge and free up bed capacity. The discharge lounge assists wards to discharge patients earlier in the day.

London Ambulance Service. The organisation did not reach their target in November for reaching even for the most seriously ill patients. Commissioners have agreed additional funding to help it improve standards, along with a number of internal actions to improve its performance.

Maternity services at Hillingdon Hospital. The number of deliveries per month is expected to stabilise when the mothers who have transferred from Ealing Hospital have delivered their babies. The trust will then be able to build a business case for the recruitment of more midwives, based on firm numbers, but this will take time.

Caesarean births. The trust has reduced its elective caesarean rate to 8.1 per cent, which is the lowest rate in North-West London, but its rate for emergency caesarean births has increased to 20.8 per cent.

SOUTH-WEST HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT)

The Acting Chief Executive, Jac Kelly is in post until a substantive appointment can be made. She feels that the trust has gained from the support given after being put into special measures. The trust will be in breach of the hospital acquired infection control for

Clostridium difficile and is facing a CCG fine. The difficulty is carrying out the planned deep clean programme as insufficient beds are empty at any given time and the Steris machine cannot be used in occupied bed areas. Keeping to the programme is extremely difficult. Ms. Kelly reported quite forcefully that the system at WHHT is under extreme distress but until other NHS providers are put under pressure (social care and CCG) to increase bed provision she sees no improvement.

The trust cannot manage patient flow when a significant number of people in beds no longer need hospital care but the trust still has a duty of care towards them. She called for support from NHS partners and transparency around the local bed base.

GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

Following on from the above report, the *HSJ* also highlights a story that could potentially impact upon the provision of GP services in the future. Their article highlights a company called Modality Partnership who already provide GP services for some 70,000 patients across Birmingham.

They are actively in discussion with practices in two other areas of the country. How they would incorporate their operations is as yet unclear but one area close to our home is Hammersmith and Fulham. Overtures have been made and currently three practices have indicated their interest.

Modality are described as being “a new care model vanguard”. For a full explanation of what this term actually means readers are advised to click on the link <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs/new-care-models/faqs/>.

At present there are at least two other groups operating in various parts of the country. Samantha Jones, formerly CEO of West Herts Trust, is the NHS lead person in this area.

According to **Health Education England** (HEE) CEO Ian Cumming, their organisation would have commissioned more adult nurse training places if they had not been subject to “funding cuts”. HEE had anticipated additional funding up until 2020 so as to allow them to create an additional 15 per cent more training places but HM Treasury had only allowed a “flat cash settlement”. However, senior HEE officials remain confident that the level of extra nursing training places commissioned over the past three years will be sufficient to meet immediate future needs.

Cumming went on to say that the largest single staffing problem was due to management having failed to tackle the issue of poor retention of trained staff. “We can train more and more people, but if trained staff keep leaving we store up more trouble for the system”

NHS England, Government and BMA agree new GP contract for 2016-2017. NHS England, the government, and the British Medical Association’s General Practitioners Committee have reached agreement on changes to the GP contract in England for 2016/17, to take effect from 1 April 2016. The new contract will see an investment of £220 million for 2016/17—part of this will provide a pay uplift of one per cent for GPs.

This agreement is the start of a process for investment, support and reform in general practice which both sides are working together to deliver, with a bigger package due to be announced soon.

Given the current discussions about whether the United Kingdom should remain or leave the European Union perhaps now is an appropriate time to remind readers that if they travel within the EU they are covered for emergency medical care (to a varying degree) by the **European Health Insurance Card** (EHIC).

Travellers can obtain this free as either a physical card or as an electronic version they can display on their smartphone. However, many local groups are being advised by the Metropolitan Police to ensure that people log on to the correct website rather than one that wants to charge you a hefty fee for something that is actually free.

One site that is perfectly safe is *NHS Choices* and on their website you merely have to follow a simple online process. Go to

www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx.