

## NEWS-SHEET – AUGUST 2015

### STOP PRESS! Northwood & Pinner Hospital site:

The current site owners, NHS Property Services, are close to deciding what to do with this site, including putting it up for sale. We have always campaigned for the site to be of service to local people, in accordance with its war memorial status. We must now escalate our campaign. Come to our meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to make sure that your own views on this important issue are heard!

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

**Sources of information in our news-sheet:** Most items come from our representatives' reports, all of which can be obtained on request to the Secretary or Chairman, contact details page 4. Where items come from elsewhere, the source is noted.

### 2. NEW DIARY DATES:

- a. **Herts Valleys CCG AGM:** Thurs. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep. 12.45 refreshments, 13.10 AGM, Rothamsted Research Centre, West Common, Harpenden, AL5 2JQ (*Parking on site*). Tel: 01442 284074 to register.
- b. **Moor Park 10k + Junior Fun Runs for the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre at Mount Vernon:** 27<sup>th</sup> September Tel: 07779 45 82 85 for full details

### 3. NATIONAL NEWS

- a. **Best places to work in the NHS:** It is generally agreed that happy staff provide good services for patients, so publication by the Health Service Journal of the best places to work in the NHS in England is highly significant. Amazingly, three of the listed places provide NHS services for our members – Central & North West London FT, Royal Brompton & Harefield FT, and The Hillingdon Hospitals FT. Aren't Hillingdon residents lucky?! They may even be unique!
- b. **The Secretary of State's July vision for the NHS:** This included the need for 7 day NHS services, to ensure that patients are safe at weekends. Also the establishment of NHS Improvement, the new name for the jointly led Trust Development Authority and Monitor – the Chair Designate is Ed Smith.

### 4. LONDON NEWS

- a. **Central & North West London FT:**
  - **North West London contract:** Agreement has been reached in principle but the contract has not yet been signed. Hillingdon's historic poor funding of mental health is not improved in the new contract. Hillingdon Healthwatch is campaigning for improvement in the Hillingdon services.
  - **CNWL CQC inspection report:** The overall rating was "Requires improvement" but caring was rated as "Outstanding" and leadership was rated "Good".
- b. **London Ambulance Service:**
  - **Overview:** This is the busiest emergency ambulance service in the UK.
  - **Staffing:** This is an issue due to the shortage of paramedics, but LAS has a robust recruitment plan with more joiners than leavers.
  - **Mental health:** This features prominently in the work of LAS and six mental health nurses were appointed earlier this year to support the teams from the clinical hub.
  - **Ambulance activity:** A diagnostic review has shown that the amount of time LAS ambulances are in active use is around 90%, whereas other ambulance providers outside London average 70-74%. The review concluded that to improve performance LAS utilisation needs to be reduced and staffing levels increased.

### c. Royal Brompton & Harefield FT:

- **Proposed sale of land at Royal Brompton:** The Trust's ambitions to develop its Royal Brompton site depends on the sale of land for residential use to enhance its value, which was opposed by the Trust's neighbour, the Royal Marsden Hospital. This ambition, at least in the medium term, has been thwarted by a combination of planning and "political" factors.
- **Finance:** The deficit in 2014/5 was £3.3m. Project Diamond funding was set up to compensate for services with costs in excess of the basic NHS tariff, so its loss on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 hurts this Trust which provides very complex services. Some items of capital expenditure have been deferred and others cancelled, but much of the proposed investment is already committed and essential for the Trust to operate at its expected level. The Trust is therefore seeking £10m of additional funding in 2015-16 to enable its capital programme to proceed as planned.
- **Private patients:** Income from private patients exceeded £37m in 2014/15. A new private patient facility is to open in Wimpole Street, London, in early 2016. Refurbishment of the 28 bedded wing at Royal Brompton Hospital provides modern facilities and accommodation. Facilities at Harefield have been extended to provide rapid access and diagnostic facilities for these patients, including evenings and weekends.
- **Local Research:** 2014/15 research income reached £11m. Over 5400 patients participated in research either by research studies or retention of their tissue in the Trust's ethically approved Biobanks. Trust consultants have published over 370 research publications.
- **Foetal cardiology:** The Trust's foetal cardiology service allows babies in the womb to be scanned at just 12 weeks when the heart measures just over a millimetre.

### d. Local Medial Committees:

- London has 27 LMCs, elected committees of GPs enshrined in statute. They represent GPs and practice teams in negotiations with decision makers from the NHS and local government.

## 5. NORTH WEST LONDON NEWS

**a. Ealing Hospital's Maternity, Neonatal and Gynaecology:** These services closed on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Paediatrics will follow one year later. Surrounding hospitals are taking the transferred patients. Additional midwives, neonatal nurses and medical registrars have been recruited.

**b. Policy on referrals within hospitals:** The eight NW London CCGs have a joint policy on these referrals, referring patients back to their GPs for further action where possible, but a number of exclusions on clinical grounds permit immediate internal referrals if necessary.

## 6. HARROW NEWS

### a. Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group:

- **Breast cancer in older women:** The CCG warns that women aged over 70 years should be more aware of the symptoms of breast cancer, of which a lump is not always the first sign. Consult a GP if any changes to the breast occur.
- **Walk-in Centres:** Both the Pinn Medical Centre and the Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre are open 8am – 8pm seven days a week during the summer holidays for people who urgently need to see a GP.

### b. London North West Healthcare NHS Trust:

- **New purpose built operating theatre:** The Trust is proud to be the first in England to open an operating theatre purpose built for a novel approach to bowel surgery that combines keyhole surgery with flexible endoscopy, which includes a light source and video camera.
- **Health Visitors shortlisted for two Nursing Times Awards:** The Trust's Health Visiting Academic Hub has been shortlisted in the Improving Staff Experience category and in the Nursing in the Community Category.

## 7. HILLINGDON NEWS

### a. Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group:

- **Winter Resilience Funding:** Hillingdon CCG has received £1.6m from NHS England and it has allocated £400k internally, making a total of £2m already allocated to combat winter pressures 2015/16 + further cash set aside in case pressures are worse than expected.

- **Empowered Patient programme:** The current programme covers diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma, with self-management workshops for 900 patients – this is to be extended to 2900 patients with various conditions, with the hope of gross savings of over £276k.
  - **Finance:** Hillingdon CCG is now forecasting a surplus in March 2016 of £3.84m on Programme Budgets and break even on Running Cost Budgets, in line with the CCG's plan. This is after application of £3m transitional support for the forecast over-performance of acute services and the marginal rate of 45% above the Guaranteed Minimal Sum for the contract with Hillingdon Hospital FT.
- b. The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT:**
- **Finances:** The Trust is under increased financial stress. In June 2015, the Trust delivered £472k savings, £247k short of its plan. Reduction in patient length of stay and workforce savings make up a considerable part of the current savings programme.
  - **Charitable Funds:** In Quarter 1, income was £28k and expenditure £41k with £677k in reserve in June 2015. A fundraiser is to be appointed. This will be a senior post, with interviews in September, and an expected start date before Christmas 2015.
  - **Recruitment:** In year to June 2014 there was an increase of 95 Health Care Assistants, 31 Nurses and Midwives and a decrease of 18 Administrative and Clerical staff. Approval to recruit from outside the UK was agreed in December 2014 – nurses from Italy, Spain, Greece and the Philippines have been recruited.
  - **Paediatric diabetes team scoops £50,000:** This is for work with children who have type 1 diabetes, taking clinics into schools to ensure the children receive the treatment that they need.
  - **Pilot site for the Care Certificate:** The Trust has been shortlisted for an award for the implementation of the Care Certificate, which 114 new and existing staff have now completed.
- c. Harefield Hospital:**
- **Harefield activity:** In 2014/15 25 heart and 49 lung transplants were undertaken and 47 ventricular assist devices were implanted. Respiratory activity there continues to grow.
  - **Angioplasty:** Harefield pioneered primary angioplasty for heart attacks and has one of the fastest arrival to treatment times in the UK.
  - **Harefield's cardiac catheterisation laboratories:** This is one of the top facilities in Europe.
  - **Investment plans:** Plans are in place to expand capacity by 20% at Harefield Hospital in three phases - an additional 6 critical care beds, a new scanning centre and a new 18 bed inpatient ward (Holly Ward) completed early 2015 / an endoscopy - minor procedures facility and more day case - short stay beds and a daycare lounge, plus Oak Ward to be rebuilt on two storeys with 20 additional beds, reconfiguration of the hospital entrance, and the lodge house to be converted for up to four patients who are medically but not socially fit for discharge + a new three storey graduated care unit, an imaging centre and bringing together 48 critical care and high dependency beds, with completion in the next 3-4 years.
- d. Hillingdon Council:**
- **Defibrillators in Hillingdon schools:** All the Borough's primary and secondary schools have been equipped with defibrillators.

## 8. MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

- a. Mount Vernon Cancer Centre:**
- Negotiations about the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre between The Hillingdon Hospitals FT and East & North Herts NHS Trust are advanced but not yet complete - the two chairmen will meet again in August and meetings are also underway with the local planning authority.
  - The two Chief Executives have agreed to be guest speakers at our February 2016 meeting to update us on replacement of the ancient cancer wards and provision of a covered way from the Cancer Centre to the Treatment Centre – unbelievably in 2015, patients may still be pushed from one to the other under umbrellas when it rains!
- b. Paul Strickland Scanner Centre celebrates 30 years:** The Centre's patron, HRH the Duchess of Kent attended the celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> July. This milestone was marked by the launch of an appeal to raise funds for a new CT scanner costing upwards of a million pounds

## 9. SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

**a. Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group:** A fourth lay member, Thelma Stober – a senior lawyer, joined the Board on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015.

**b. West Herts. Hospitals NHS Trust:**

- **National Clinical Champion for Diabetes:** A consultant from West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Ana Pokrajac, has been elected as a national clinical champion for Diabetes UK because of her work locally in organising the first Hertfordshire diabetes conference.
- **Dementia training:** Porters, domestics and catering staff working across Watford, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead hospitals are all to receive training to become 'Dementia Friends' to help them gain a greater understanding of how the disease affects not only patients, but also their families and friends. All the Medirest senior management staff across the three hospital sites have already received training, as well as 68 other staff at a pilot training session held recently. By the end of the year all 420 of staff members will have received training.

## 10. GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

### **Pancreatic Cancer** *From website link from West Herts Hospitals Trust*

A simple urine test that could detect pancreatic cancer much earlier than at present has been developed by scientists. They found a protein "signature" only present in people with the disease. Pancreatic cancer is often very advanced by the time it is diagnosed - and only 3% of patients are alive five years after diagnosis. Cancer charities welcomed the study, published in Clinical Cancer Research, saying a test was "much needed".

Just under 9,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the UK every year. It has the lowest five-year survival rate of any common cancer and one that has barely improved in 40 years. More than 80% of people with the disease are diagnosed when it has already spread, so they are not eligible for surgery to remove the tumour - currently the only potential cure. Those at higher risk include people with a family history of the cancer, heavy smokers, obese people and people over 50 who are newly diagnosed with diabetes.

The scientists from the UK and Spain who developed the test hope that if its early promise is realised then it could be possible to diagnose patients much earlier and offer them treatment. There's been little progress in improving survival for pancreatic cancer, and innovative approaches are needed, said Fiona Osgun, Cancer Research UK.

The research looked at almost 500 urine samples. Just under 200 were from patients with pancreatic cancer, 92 from patients with chronic pancreatitis and 87 from healthy volunteers. The rest of the samples were from patients with benign and cancerous liver and gall bladder conditions. Out of 1,500 proteins found in the urine samples, three were seen to be at much higher levels in the pancreatic cancer patients, providing a "protein signature" that could identify the most common form of the disease.

The signature was found to be 90% accurate. Patients with chronic pancreatitis were found to have lower levels of the same three proteins.

### **Alzheimer's drug breakthrough** *(The Week 1 August 2015)*

A new drug that seems to delay the onset of Alzheimer's has been presented to a conference in the U.S. Developed by the US pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly, solanezumab has been shown, in initial trials, to slow the progression of the disease for about a third of patients with mild Alzheimer's. The developers admit the effects of the drug on these patients – who had yet to experience much in the way of memory loss, would have been hardly discernible, and that the drug was found to have no impact on people in more advanced stages of the disease. But the results were hailed as breakthrough nonetheless, as it is the first time a drug has been shown to slow the rate at which Alzheimer's damages the brain; other treatments only help with the symptoms .... Further trials of the drug – which works by attacking sticky plaques that build up in the brain - are needed to verify the results.

*(Members should contact the Chairman if they wish any item to be discussed at our next Council Meeting)*

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