

BREAKING NEWS!

1. Christmas cards for two local charities will be on sale at our November meeting: Both Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre and Michael Sobell House will have Christmas cards on sale – they are both magnificent supporters of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. This is our chance to support them!

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. 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. Videos on our website: Donald Edwards has created a treasure trove of information on our website in videos recording our meetings, our guest speakers and other local clinicians. If you have not explored Donald's videos, you may be surprised at the range and depth of his work about the NHS locally. Our website can be seen at www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk

2. DIARY DATES

1. Harrow CCG public event: Thursday, 22nd October 2015, 2.30pm-5pm (registration and a buffet from 1.45pm) at Harrow Baptist Church, College Road, Harrow, HA1 1BA. Harrow residents are being invited to the Healthcare in Harrow event to have their say on local NHS plans.

2. Afternoon Drop-in for Mental Health Carers Harrow: 2nd and 4th Friday in month, next meeting 23rd October, 1.30pm – 3pm, at 376/378 Pinner Road, North Harrow

3. UPDATE ON SOME OF OUR CAMPAIGNS

1. Our petition to keep Northwood & Pinner Community Hospital site an asset for local people: The petition is off to a good start. Now we need all our members to pull together to collect maximum signatures. Members with whom we communicate by email received copies of the petition on the day it was launched. All the rest will receive paper copies in our October mailing. We have always spoken loud and clear on this issue. Now we all have a chance to add action to words!

2. Hillingdon's funding for mental health: We await a response to our letter to the Chairman of Hillingdon CCG, Dr Ian Goodman. Why should Hillingdon people who suffer mental health problems receive poorer services than those who live elsewhere? Our bad postcode lottery is not acceptable!

3. National funding to Clinical Commissioning Groups: Mervyn Stone is beavering away on this highly contentious issue and is finding more and more evidence to support our concerns. He awaits an update from Boris Johnson MP who has pursued within the NHS the concerns that Mervyn has raised.

4. Provision of a hearing loop in the Hillingdon CCG Boardroom: In response to a Community Voice question, the CCG has stated that it hopes to install a hearing loop system by the end of the year.

4. NATIONAL NEWS

1. Junior Doctors' and Consultants' Contracts: The Dept. of Health announced it would impose a new junior doctors' contract from August 2016 for basic hours with standard pay to run from 7am to 10pm Mondays to Saturdays, 30 hours per week more than at present, but more recently it has drawn back from these deeply unpopular proposals. The BMA has agreed to start negotiations on consultant pay. The government wants more senior doctors to work at weekends as part of its seven-day plans in England, but any deal will be put to a vote by consultants early next year.

- 2. Agency Nursing Staff Rules:** An annual ceiling for total nursing agency spending is being set for each trust for the period October 2015 to March 2016 and for the following three years, as well as mandatory frameworks for procuring agency staff.
- 3. Patient Records:** The Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has made clear that by 2016 all patients should be able to access their own GP electronic record online including their allergies, medication, blood test results, appointment records and medical histories. By 2018 this record will cover all their health and care interactions.
- 4. A healthy workforce:** *The Five Year Forward View* commits the NHS to setting a national example in supporting its own staff to stay healthy. NHS staff absence due to poor health is estimated by Public Health England to cost £2.4bn a year - around £1 in every £40 of the total budget. Staff absence is linked to unsafe care of patients and poorer outcomes. A large number of initiatives are being introduced to advance this policy – from yoga, weight management and physiotherapy to including fruit in discounted meal deals.
- 5. Referral to Treatment times:** The NHS Constitution gives patients the right to start consultant led treatment within 18 weeks of referral. The referral to treatment standard from 1st October 2015 will be that 92% of those waiting to start treatment have been waiting less than 18 weeks, with a sanction for incomplete pathways of £300, replacing the earlier admitted and non admitted standards and sanctions.
- 6. Access to mental health services:** National waiting time standards are being introduced in 2015/16 – 75% of patients being seen within six weeks and 95% within 18 weeks. £10m of non-recurrent funding has been made available to CCGs to support improved access to psychological therapies. Also from April 2016, more than 50% of people experiencing a first episode of psychosis will be treated with a NICE approved care package within two weeks of referral.
- 7. Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services:** £1.25bn extra funding has been allocated over five years to improve these services and to tackle eating disorders in young people, with funding allocated to CCGs following regional assurance of their plans to transform services.
- 8. Smoking in cars with children banned from 1st October:** This is to protect children from the dangers of second-hand smoke. The fine is £50 for smoking or allowing a passenger to smoke in a car.

5. LONDON NEWS

- a. Central & North West London FT:**
 - **Care Quality Commission compliance:** Following the CQC inspection the Trust had 24 areas of non-compliance. The Trust now declares itself compliant with 11 of these issues and work on the remaining 13 areas is in progress with the intention of being fully compliant by the end of December.
 - **NW London Clinical Commissioning Groups expand adult mental health crisis teams:** These CCGs are investing £1.9m a year in this process. CNWL will use the investment for new Home Treatment Rapid Response Teams to deliver a 24 hour, 7 day a week rapid response function in the NW London boroughs, including Harrow and Hillingdon, for urgent and emergency referrals into adult secondary care mental health services. The new teams are planned to start in November.
 - **Finance:** At the six month point in the NHS year a number of London NHS Trusts are reporting huge deficits. Stringent national guidance is expected to tackle this serious problem. However, this Trust expects to achieve its end of year financial target, aided by its planned disposal of property.
- b. North Thames NHS Genomic Medicine Centre:**
 - Led by Great Ormond Street children's hospital, this project is supported by London North West Healthcare NHS Trust, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Royal Free, UCLH and Barts Healthcare. As part of the 100,000 Genomes Project, the partnership will recruit patients with a range of rare diseases and some common cancers. Patients' genomes will be analysed through blood samples, in order to make genetic diagnoses. The aim is to create a new genomic medicine service for patients. Britain will have the biggest Genomes Centre in the world, a big undertaking with a specially constructed building in Cambridge, funded by the Government - a big step towards more personalised treatment.

6. HARROW NEWS

- a. Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group:**
 - **Join a patient participation group:** You can help direct how your GP practice provides local health services by joining its patient participation group. A full list of PPGs is on the Harrow CCG website. Together they form the CCG's patient and carer reference group, which provides patient / public views when the CCG is planning services for Harrow patients.

b. North West Healthcare NHS Trust:

- **CQC Inspection:** This inspection starts on 20th October and will cover all the Trust's sites. People can share their experiences with CQC by 'phone: 03000 616161 or by email: telus@CQC.org.uk
- **Northwick Park Hospital's Mental Health Assessment Lounge:** Brent and Harrow CCGs have confirmed continued investment in this lounge, which started as a pilot project. Both patients and local GPs rate it as successful in providing a secure environment for mental health patients to be assessed away from the main Accident & Emergency environment.

7. HILLINGDON NEWS

a. Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group:

- **Care for older people:** A new model of care to provide care for frail older people with long term conditions is being developed by a partnership of The Hillingdon Hospital FT (hospital services), Central & North West London FT (community and mental health services) MetroHealth GP network (GP services) and Hillingdon4all (voluntary services). This is to be tested in two Hillingdon practices.
- **Capital funding for IT for GPs:** The CCG's original bid for £356k was unsuccessful, but NHS England having now approved an award of £230k, the CCG is obliged to prioritise the needs of local GPs. 36 practices need server or software upgrades. PC, printer and scanner upgrades are also needed, some of which can be funded from 2014/15 capital. All practices are being moved to routine use of NHS Mail, which provides protection for transmission of patient identifiable data.
- **Tuberculosis screening:** Across the country, NHS England and Public Health England are starting to implement a programme to screen new immigrants from high prevalence areas of the world. The local bid for £804,155 is to set up prospective screening of new registrants and retrospective screening of eligible patients who have registered in the last four years. A local TB Steering Group has been set up with local TB specialists, pathology, Public Health, a GP and a project manager.
- **Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services:** NHS England is providing £250m per year for 5 years to improve these services nationally, responding to the national rise in the number of young people with mental health issues. Hillingdon has been awarded £149,760 per year for CAMHS Community Eating Disorders and £374,863 per year for CAMHS Service Transformation. Local Transformation Plans will be assured by NHS England and backed by regional and national support.

b. The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT:

- **Hillingdon Hospital Car Parking:** Following failure of the deck car park proposals, provision of an additional 40-50 spaces has been identified as relatively straightforward on the Hillingdon Hospital site. Designs are being finalised for submission to the planning authority and implementation should be possible within 6 -7 months. There has already been a net gain of 101 parking spaces through additional on-site and off-site initiatives since December 2014.
- **Finance:** The Trust ended August with a deficit of £1,150k, which was £1,402k behind plan. The overall adverse financial performance was primarily influenced by additional beds, high agency expenditure and shortfall in planned savings. Also, in August activity was lower than expected, resulting in lower income.
- **Mount Vernon Site Update:** Progress has been made towards a Memorandum of Understanding between The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT and East & North Herts. Hospital NHS Trust about the redevelopment of this site - the two organisations are now working together.
- **Care Quality Commission's Re-inspection in May:** The Trust is now rated as "Requiring improvement" with no factors rated "Inadequate".

c. Harefield Hospital:

- **Celebration of the hospital's centenary:** This celebration has had many highlights including major fund-raising events. The 100 Hearts concert raised £255,660 and the Fund Run has already raised £32,000 with more still to come. It is the chosen Charity of the Mayor of Hillingdon this year.
- **Finances:** To end of August, the Trust had a deficit of £6.9m having received some capital ahead of plan – its underlying deficit at this point of time was £7.9m, £0.4m worse than expected.

d. Central & North West London FT:

- **Asylum seeking children in Hillingdon:** Some of these children have been trafficked, suffering trauma of many kinds in addition to language problems. Their needs are complex. The Trust's teams for Looked After Children are working to tackle child sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy, substance use problems and lack of emotional well being.

9. SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

a. East & North Herts Hospitals NHS Trust:

- The Care Quality Commission's inspection of the Trust starts on Tuesday 20th October. This inspection will include the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

b. Herts. Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group:

- **Herts Valleys Carers Strategy:** This strategy has been rated "highly commended" by the Health Service Journal Value in Healthcare Awards. All Herts Valleys practices now have a carers' champion and are offering carers access to a range of community services through their champions, the community navigators and HertsHelp.

c. West Herts. Hospitals NHS Trust:

- **CQC rating "Inadequate":** The Trust has been put into special measures after inspectors found serious failings in the safety and quality of its care, a chronic lack of nurses and a failure to act on the lessons of previous patient safety incidents. Facilities were in such a bad state of repair that they caused a potential risk to staff and visitors, but care in children's and young people's services was outstanding. Low staff morale was common. However, the trust's interim chief executive, Jac Kelly, was praised for understanding the problems and taking decisive action to tackle them.
- **Shortlisted for a Health Service Journal Award for work on hip fracture treatment:** The Trust's work with its 450 patients per year treated for fractured neck of femur - one of the most common complex trauma problems orthopaedic surgeons face - has resulted in a 50% reduction in mortality rates since 2013. Commenting on this exciting news Mike van der Watt, Medical Director said: "This is excellent news for the Trust. To be shortlisted for this award is a fantastic accolade for our staff." The winners will be announced in London on 18 November 2015.
- **Seven day working:** Important changes are in place at Watford Hospital to implement seven day working. Traditionally there have been fewer staff on duty at night and at weekends, but this is changing. More consultants are on duty, with more ward rounds and more diagnostic services, which is already having a positive impact on patient care and experience. Working closely with partner organisations ensures that support needed by discharged patients is in place at their homes.

10. GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

End of Life Care - the UK the best in the world (From Mike Waddington Director of Communications CNWL)

A study comparing end of life care across 80 countries has found the UK has the best end of life care, thanks to the joint efforts of the NHS and hospice movement whose care is "second to none". The report by the Economist Intelligence Unit revealed the availability of specialised staff with strong community engagement meant when it came to palliative care, the UK were world leaders.

CNWL's Consultant in Palliative Medicine Dr Caroline Stirling, who is also Clinical Director for End of Life Care at NHS England, London says: "The hospice movement in the UK has led the way in establishing excellent palliative and end of life care. The challenges that remain are firstly to ensure that this type of care is available throughout London in all settings at all times. There are significant gaps in the availability of services particularly outside working hours. The second challenge is to provide education so that all clinical staff in all settings are able to recognise patients who are deteriorating, start to talk to them about this and refer them for palliative care support. As Clinical Director for End of Life Care for NHS England - London, I will be supporting commissioners and providers to address these challenges. As a Trust we are drafting a strategy, as well as a clinical network, to start to address these challenges and to ensure that patients being cared for anywhere within the Trust, as they are reaching the end of their lives, have optimal care."

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

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