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## GENERAL NOTE

**Our Hard of Hearing Campaign:** Our September mailing includes our sheets introducing this campaign. Wherever members go, we hope they will ask questions about facilities to assist people who have poor hearing. If we all work together we could have enormous impact! The question sheets can be photocopied or paper copies can be obtained from the Chairman on request. On completion the sheets can be taken to our next Council meeting or they may be sent to the addresses on the sheets. Please let us know of any improvements that arise from your questioning. With an aging population more and more people face deafness ahead so anything we can do to improve their lot is of immense importance. Do what you can to help!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, AGM Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group:** 12.30pm at Brunel University. Tel: 01895 203000 to book

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, AGM Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group:** 6pm The Heights, 59- 69 Lowlands Road Harrow

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, AGM West Herts NHS Trust:** 6.30pm – 8pm, Spice Restaurant Watford General Hospital

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, Michael Sobell Hospice “Feel Good, Look Good Day”:** Aromatherapy, reflexology, Reiki, Indian Head Massage, Facial, Manicure plus light refreshments and stalls selling goodies.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre’s Moor Park 10k and Junior Fun Runs:** Full details online at [www.moorpark10k.org.uk](http://www.moorpark10k.org.uk)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October Michael Sobell Hospice Anniversary Walk:** 9am 3 miles or 7 miles. Dogs welcome too.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Paul Strickland Scanner Centre’s Quiz Night:** 7.30pm The Fairway Inn, Rickmansworth, £14 per person including supper.

## NATIONAL NEWS

- 1. More clinical pharmacists in GP surgeries:** In July 2017 NHS England announced that 1,777 more GP practices were to have a clinical pharmacist on site. The General Practice Forward View had previously committed to over £100m of investment to support more clinical pharmacists to work in general practice. A list of sites taking part in the roll out programme is available on the NHS England website.
- 2. New ambulance service standards:** In July 2017 NHS England also announced a change in the way 999 call handlers were to assess cases, with more time to decide the most appropriate clinical response. Ambulances would be expected to reach the most seriously ill patients in an average time of seven minutes. The “clock” would only stop when the most appropriate response arrived on scene, rather than the first. Previously

three or even four vehicles might be sent to the same 999 call to be sure of meeting the 8 minute target, meaning that across the country one in four stood down before reaching their destination. Pilot studies indicated that the measures should free up vehicles and staff to respond to emergencies.

## **LONDON REGIONAL NEWS**

### **Central & North West London FT:**

- 1. Care Quality Commission rates CNWL “Good”:** In June 2015, CNWL was rated as “Requires Improvement”. After a number of re-inspections. in August 2017 the rating was changed to “Good”, which was welcomed by the Trust. The Trust’s inpatient service for people with Learning Disability was rated “Outstanding” joining its two other services with that distinction – Sexual Health and Caring Staff. In all its community services and much of its mental health services the Trust has been rated “Good” since 2015.
- 2. Bottle feeding of Hillingdon toddlers:** Three of this Trust’s Hillingdon teams worked together in July to encourage parents to stop bottle feeding their toddlers, and instead use cups. Hillingdon has the highest rate of tooth decay in three year olds across London’s boroughs. The Hillingdon Community Dental Referral Team, Health Visiting Team and Infant Feeding Lead teamed up to host Bottle to Cup events, where they encouraged parents and carers to introduce a free flow cup from six months, and to throw away baby bottles as soon as babies are a year old.

### **London Ambulance Service:**

- 1. London Ambulance Service:** Frequent attenders are being targeted to reduce the strain on LAS, with considerable success in June - a reduction in the attendances of 96 people.

### **Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS FT:** *(From the Trust’s website)*

- 1. Trust awarded £1.3 million for lung cancer research:** This is the largest National Institute for Health Research grant awarded to the Trust this year. It is for a study looking at mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the chest wall that is usually caused by exposure to asbestos. In the UK over 2,000 patients are diagnosed each year with pleural mesothelioma. So far, most treatments have been ineffective .
- 2. Emphysema:** This damages parts of the lung, making it difficult to breathe. A study, published in The European Respiratory Journal Open Research, reported on ‘lung volume reduction procedures’ at Royal Brompton Hospital in London and Glenfield Hospital in Leicester, which work by removing damaged tissue, giving the healthy parts of the lungs more room to breathe, sometimes involving an operation, or by using a fibre-optic camera called a bronchoscope. These procedures can bring dramatic benefits to some patients, but many of the 20,000 people who might benefit are not being considered for treatment. Despite lung volume reduction surgery being recommended by NICE as a treatment to be considered for such patients, fewer than 100 patients undergo the procedure each year in the UK.

### **North West London Clinical Commissioning Groups**

- 1. Proposal to reduce waste with repeat prescribing:** This proposal, under consideration by all NW London CCGs, was agreed after much discussion by Hillingdon CCG.. It features patients making their own repeat prescriptions, precluding pharmacists from doing so except for the small body of patients who are unable to do so themselves and have no one else able to do so for them.
- 2. Proposal to ask patients to buy drugs that can be bought without prescription:** This too is under consideration by all NW London CCGs, with the expectation of joint application. Various concerns led to much discussion in Hillingdon CCG and agreement subject to an application policy being agreed.

- 3. Atrial fibrillation:** AF is the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disorder and it accounts for 20% of all strokes and one in three of those suffered after age 80 years. Stroke is the fourth largest cause of death in the UK and the leading cause of disability, since 60% of survivors are disabled. Public Health England estimates that over 17,000 people in NW London have undiagnosed AF and that better management of AF could prevent 170 strokes and 40 deaths each year. The incidence of AF is age related, with one in four at risk after the age of 40 and a third of those aged over 85. AF related strokes are amongst the most deadly but anticoagulation treatment greatly reduces the risks. Warfarin remains widely prescribed but more modern drugs are now available although more costly. However the cost of anticoagulants is more than offset by the costs saved by avoiding strokes. The case to find and treat AF is being considered by local CCGs.

## HARROW NEWS

### **London North-West Healthcare NHS Trust** *(From the Trust's website)*

- 1. This Trust is now a University Hospital!:** London North West Healthcare NHS Trust has been awarded University Hospital status after being granted membership of the Association of UK University Hospitals, a key leadership body representing University Hospitals across the UK. As a member, the Trust will be able to add the word 'University' to its title. To achieve this, the Trust had to demonstrate strong involvement in research and a commitment to undergraduate teaching.

Chief Executive, Jacqueline Docherty DBE, said: "Membership of the AUKUH and recognition as a University Hospital by our peers formally acknowledges the important role that we play in training clinicians of the future and bringing the benefits of healthcare innovations to the public.

- 2. One Stop Shop for sexual health services:** London North West Healthcare NHS Trust has been awarded a five year contract to deliver these services across Harrow, Brent and Ealing, including sex education, contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and testing for HIV. The Trust was awarded the contract as part of the London Sexual Health Transformation programme.
- 3. Research:** More patients than ever before are taking part in clinical research at this Trust. The number has increased by more than 1,300 over the past year to 5,152 (up from 3,847 in 2015/16). The annual league table published by the National Institute for Health Research details research activity across all NHS Trusts in England. It provides a picture of how much clinical research is happening, where, in what types of Trusts, and involving how many patients. London North West Healthcare recruited to 126 studies in 2016/17, the third highest in North West London after Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The number of commercial research studies also increased by more than 50% to 28.

### **Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group** *(From the CCG's website)*

- 1. Harrow Community Health Services:** Services include health visiting, physiotherapy, district nursing and school nursing, speech and language therapy, smoking cessation, specialist dentistry, and emergency and out of hours care. The main provider of community health services in Harrow is London North West Healthcare NHS Trust.

## HILLINGDON NEWS

### **The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT**

- 1. Winter funding:** The Hillingdon Hospitals FT has been allocated £2,750,000 for winter resilience in 2017-18.
- 2. Hillingdon Urgent Care Centre:** The Care Quality Commission rating published in May was a rating of Good with Outstanding in the Effective domain.

3. **Mount Vernon Treatment Centre car park:** This will be changed to “pay on exit” before the end of November but other on site car parks will remain “pay on display”.

### **Mount Vernon Cancer Centre**

1. **PET-CT scans:** This is a type of scan where radioactive glucose is injected, which is rapidly taken up by cancer cells, so that medical staff can see on the scan where in the body cancer is active, helping to make treatment more successful. These scans are available at the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre. In 2016, 4,300 PET-CT scans were carried out at that Centre.

### **Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group**

1. **Finance:** Overall at end of June Hillingdon CCG was achieving its year to date planned surplus of £2.1m and on target to reach its year end planned surplus of £8.3m, but this was a very tight situation using all its contingency funds and anticipating that its QIPP savings will be achieved in full. There are adverse variances in Continuing Care, Acute and Mental Health.
2. **Delayed transfers of care due to mental health factors:** There has been a drop from 16.3% in March, against a target of < 7.5%, to 10% in June, but this remains a challenging and complex problem with factors relating to housing issues, care home placement, care coordinator allocation and funding decisions

### **SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE**

#### **West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust** *(From the Three Valleys CCG's website)*

1. Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group is backing the redevelopment of existing sites at Watford General and St Albans City hospitals. Both NHS organisations want as much new-build as possible. They both engaged with local people to consider a range of options, including a brand new hospital on a ‘greenfield’ site. Evidence from detailed analysis commissioned from industry experts demonstrated that the redevelopment of existing sites option would be quickest, more straightforward, and most cost effective.

#### **Herts. Partnership University NHS FT** *(From the Three Valleys CCG's website)*

1. East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Herts Valleys CCG and Hertfordshire County Council have given an extra £110,000 to the specialist eating disorders team at Hertfordshire’s Child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS). The CCGs and council are working together to deliver Hertfordshire’s £2m CAMHS transformation plan to improve emotional wellbeing services for children and young people over five years. One priority is to enhance eating disorder services, which are provided by Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

### **GENERAL HEALTH NEWS**

#### **60-Second Eye Surgery that can restore sight** *(Daily Mail 10.4.17)*

1,000s of older people at risk of blindness could have their sight improved by a 1-minute operation. It’s the first new treatment in a decade that can hold back age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and there are hopes it might one day be available on the NHS. East Enders star June Brown is one of 1,000 people to have the surgery, costing around £5,000 at London Eye Hospital. A study of 244 with AMD found that after the procedure they could read an additional 3 to 4 lines of letters on an eye chart. The eye surgeon who pioneered the technology is Bobby Qureshi. He said the improvement in June Brown’s eyes was “astonishing”. He said, “From barely being able to read an eye chart, she could read the letters almost to the bottom ... if it were available on the NHS it could help millions.” The Eyemax Mono procedure can’t cure AMD, but can stall the deterioration. The new treatment is mainly for dry AMD but may be suitable for some with wet AMD.