

Community Voice Current Activities “Harrow Group”

1. North West London Hospitals NHS Trust issues:

a. The proposed merger with Ealing NHS Trust: This issue is of considerable concern to our members. Concerns centre on financial issues and transport issues, but we recognise that large departments are better able to provide strong clinical teams 24 hours / 365 days per year with greater specialisation and expertise available to patients. We therefore watch all proposal very carefully.

b. Patients not accepting an appointment within one week are removed from the list: We have protested vigorously that this policy is unreasonable and have been offered assurances, which we monitor whenever possible. Patients who are disabled or facing a wide range of personal problems may not appreciate the importance of a swift acceptance - those on holiday may be totally unaware that the offer has been made.

c. Patients allowed on only one operation list: We regard this as a draconian policy and have protested accordingly, citing conspicuous examples which make it a nonsense. We have been given assurances about its operation but monitor this closely when possible.

d. Referrals not received from GPs: Examples of disputes between patients, GPs and this hospital have caused us concern. It is difficult to establish causes of such failure but we are watching for evidence.

2. Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group issues:

a. Associate Lay Members shared between Clinical Commissioning Groups: This proposal causes us concern as we fear lack of local knowledge if sharing occurs. We are seeking clarification of the role that Lay Members of CCGs should perform.