

## **Community Voice Current Activities “London Region Group”**

### **1. North West London Issues:**

**a. High dependency paediatric beds:** It is recognised that there are few such beds in NW London and that sometimes children have to be taken to the far end of the country to find a vacant bed with these facilities. That fact is exacerbated by lack of appropriate ambulance provision to meet their needs, in contrast to children requiring intensive care, for whom dedicated transport is available. When such children must be moved, senior clinicians must be taken from other duties to accompany them, which impinges on services for other children. We are monitoring this closely.

**b. Shaping a Healthier Future:** This NW London programme plans to concentrate maternity and emergency services in fewer hospitals, and to improve community health services to avoid hospital admissions. We support these aims and monitor progress closely, particularly in Harrow and Hillingdon. Extensions to emergency departments at Northwick Park Hospital and Hillingdon Hospital have attracted large financial awards and building is already underway.

**c. Integration of health and social care in NW London:** This is a project within Shaping a Healthier Future, which builds on earlier work in London. It is supported by all eight CCGs in the area, including Hillingdon CCG, and by seven of the corresponding Local Authorities, but not by Hillingdon Borough Council. The project has won pioneer status, bringing it resources of finance and expertise. We support the project and monitor it closely.

**d. Integration of health and social care in Hillingdon:** A sub-committee of the Hillingdon Health and Wellbeing Board has been set up to develop local plans, which must be submitted early in 2014 if national funding is to be secured. The sub-committee is supposed to meet in public but meetings have been cancelled or postponed, so we are unable to assess progress. This is a cause of concern, which we are watching closely.

**e. Access to Paul Strickland Scanner Centre for NW London patients:** The speaker at our meeting in November 2013 noted that this Scanner Centre, a charity widely supported by local people, relies on patients from Hertfordshire since GPs in Hillingdon and Harrow are not allowed to refer patients there directly. The Scanner Centre has a prestigious reputation, state of the art equipment and virtually no waiting list. We believe its facilities should be available to local people. Letters sent to the Chairmen of Harrow CCG and Hillingdon CCG in November 2013 have remained unanswered in late February 2014. We are about to escalate our action.

## **2. Royal Brompton & Harefield FT:**

**a. Heart services:** The Royal Brompton Hospital serves patients from a wide area of London and South East England. The national review of paediatric heart surgery in 2012 proposed that the hospital should lose this key service, which the Trust fought vigorously. Subsequently this led to a new national review of heart services, widened to include adult services, which is still underway in 2014. We have consistently supported the case for retention of all the Trust's illustrious services. The interdependence of these services means that a threat to one section threatens all the rest, including those at Harefield Hospital.

**b. Plans to rebuild the Royal Brompton Hospital:** The hospital buildings are scattered and inefficient. Plans to consolidate and rebuild the hospital on its central London site hinge on releasing funds by sale of its unwanted local estate for other purposes. That proposal has met opposition from the neighbouring Royal Marsden Hospital and some local people. We recognise the need to rebuild, which can only be accomplished if funds are released, so we support the Trust's proposals. We will monitor this closely.