

## **Community Voice Current Activities “National Group”**

### **1. NHS Financial Issues:**

**a. NHS Funding:** This activity, started many years ago, is led by Professor Mervyn Stone, who has published a book and many articles on this issue. We object to some areas receiving up to twice as much per capita funding than others, from formulae dependent on proxy variables and estimation of “unmet need”. We press Dept. of Health and MPs for funding to be linked to proven need for local health services and proven need for local resources.

Locally Harrow and Hillingdon are constantly pressured financially and there is substantial evidence that this is related to local underfunding.

**b. Reduced hospital funding for readmissions and excess numbers:** Hospitals are penalised if they admit more patients than in 2008 and if patients admitted as an emergency are readmitted within 30 days. Local CCGs are supposed to use the retained funds to introduce community health services to prevent future hospital admissions, but this has been widely ignored. Relaxation of rules in 2014 permit some local adjustments. We are monitoring closely.

### **2. NHS England Issues:**

**a. Regional Meetings in public:** No regional meetings are held in public. We have protested to NHS England and all local MPs.

**b. Board questions:** No questions are allowed from the public at NHS England Board Meetings, not even questions of clarification. We strongly object

### **3. Research Issues:**

**a. Publication of research findings:** There is no requirement for the outcomes of clinical trials to be published, so negative outcomes are rarely reported and neither GPs nor patients can be fully informed on which medication may be best for particular individuals. There are also many other shortcomings between commercial considerations and public interests. We are considering supporting “All Trials”, set up by Dr Ben Goldacre and the British Medical Journal to address these issues - its 2012 petition has already been signed by illustrious bodies such as NICE, Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Arthritis Care, RNIB etc.