



**245<sup>th</sup> Meeting, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015, at Mount Vernon Hospital.**

**ATTENDANCE :** 35 members and guests

**1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

- **Welcome :** The Chairman welcomed all present, particularly the guest speakers for our Forum: "Transfer of NHS Services from Hospitals into the Community".
- **Apologies to Dr Small:** For miss-spelling his name as Nicholas instead of Nicolas.
- **Other apologies :** Dr Goodman agreed to attend this meeting but he had to withdraw later - we were lucky that his deputy, Dr Reva Gudi, took his place at short notice. Apologies also from Valery Rees (*League of Jewish Women, N'wood*), Tony Ellis (*N'wood Live at Home Scheme*), Liz Segal (*Vine Lane RA*), Janet Baddeley, Lesley Davis, Heinz & Susan Grunewald, Jean McFarlane, Jon Spain, (*Ind. Mems*).
- **Announcements :** Anyone not wishing to appear on video was asked to move out of camera range.

**2. FORUM on moving hospital services into the community:**

**Dr. Reva Gudi**, Vice Chairman Hillingdon CCG, noted:

- Hillingdon is the second largest Borough in London. Changes are needed in delivery of health services to provide a better service to meet the increase in birth rate and the numbers of migrants.
- Out of hospital care is often better, quicker, and cheaper. "Hubs" will be established over the next five years, out of hospitals and nearer the community, with five possible sites already identified.
- There are advantages in moving medical services and personnel such as GPs, Home Nurses, District Nurses, and Health Visitors, into Community Health Centres.
- Health Centres would be the first point of call for patients, where there would be practitioners with diagnostic and specialist skills in treatments of common problems eg. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Diabetes, Cardiac problems, Dermatology, Ophthalmology.
- Access would be convenient and more responsive to patients needs.
- With financial constraints and a recruitment crisis for GPs it would make sense to work together, along with in house pharmacies, and other medical professionals.
- The use of "Hubs" situated nearer the community would give the patients more empowerment over their self-care without the constraints of a hospital environment.

**Dr. Nicolas Small**, Chairman Herts Valleys CCG, noted:

- His CCG serves a population of 630,000 residents, in St Albans, Harpenden, Hemel Hemstead, Decorum, Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers.
- A review has been addressing the needs of patients, the increasing birth rate, improvements to services, financial pressures and the national challenges which must be addressed.
- Patients want care nearer to home, better access to primary care, particularly elderly care and preventative health care, with joined-up care between specialists and other medical practitioners.
- More efficient use should be made of facilities and estates with locally based community "hubs".
- More local engagement with the public is needed, to listen to their needs.
- Local Hospital Boards are meeting together in October and will publish their joint proposals later.

**Dr. Amol Kelshiker**, Chairman Harrow CCG, noted:

- His CCG serves 240,000 residents, in six residential wards, with 50% of the population from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups. The population needs and life expectancy vary between wards. The population is expected to grow over the next 10 years particularly in the older age groups. A vision of care for Out of Hospital Services is being drawn up and in some cases is already in place. .
- To shift the services into the community, prior assurance must be given concerning premises, skill mix of workforce, correct expertise and hospital specialist support.
- Financial constraints must be addressed as the CCG is in deficit.
- Patients need the right care in the right place by the right clinician, not always in hospital.
- Community care may be more cost effective and beneficial to the patient, possibly managed at home with an individual care plan, or in an accessible clinic near to home e.g. diabetes which has one of the highest incidences of disease in the Asian population.

- Walk-in centres, "hubs", in Alexandra Avenue and Pinner Medical Practice have increased the number of patients treated in primary care and this is expected to rise over the next year, with plans to expand this service with more sites opening from 8am to 8pm seven days a week.
- The four years' old Urgent Care Centre, co-located with the A&E department at Northwick Park Hospital, is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to treat patients' minor injuries. It takes pressure off the recently expanded A&E department, which now has additional capacity for a better service.
- STARRS (Short Term intensive support And Rapid Response Service) based in that hospital works with primary and community care to reduce admissions to hospital and attendances at A&E.
- Harrow CCG is proactive in the expansion of the Whole Systems Model of care for patients. In the year ahead it will build on the current strengths to support mental health, dementia and carers.

Questions from the audience were answered by all three guest speakers

- The admiral nurses service in Harrow has been halted until a major review is carried out.
- It is difficult to recruit trained nurses for Diabetes.
- A joint wheelchair review is underway in Harrow and Hillingdon. Herts Valleys has similar problems.
- All three CCGs hope to increase GP surgery hours, but there is a shortage of GPs. Funding for Primary Care has reduced over the past 10 years and been transferred to Acute Care in hospitals.
- Telephone consultations and on-line booking has been introduced, and the use of Skype is being considered, but more staff will be required.
- The staffing of the 111 telephone service is strictly monitored and is being reviewed.

**NHS Funding:** Before closing the Forum, the Chairman noted our long standing concern that CCGs' provision of services depends on the funding they receive. Our lead, Professor Mervyn Stone, awaits a response to his recent letter about this to the Secretary of State. A chart showing allocations to the three CCGs for 2013 to 2015 was displayed and the three CCGs were asked to send us their comments after the meeting. Paper copies of the chart were available at the door (*and on request to our Secretary*).

On behalf of the audience, James Kincaid thanked the speakers for their informative presentations which answered many community care concerns. The audience responded with appreciative applause.

## Part II

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The minutes of Thurs. 2nd July were agreed and signed as correct.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

**5. URGENT BUSINESS :** The Chairman asked members to collect items on display in the outer hall:

- Publicity posters for our October and November Meetings – for distribution where possible.
- Copies of reports from NHS Board meetings held in public.

**6. OPEN FORUM: Northwood and Pinner Hospital Site:** This WWI memorial site was paid for by public donation, passing to NHS care in 1948; we have always said that the site must serve local people. Andrew Riley, Chairman of Northwood Hills RA, updated us about recent developments.

- NHS Property Services now owns the site – it could sell off the site to private developers.
- The Northwood Health Centre wishes to remain on site, to serve local patients.
- A property developer proposes sheltered housing on part of the site.
- Nick Hurd, the site's Member of Parliament, is working to preserve the site for the community.

It was unanimously agreed that Tony Ellis (*Northwood RA*), Andrew Riley (*Northwood Hills RA*), James Kincaid (*Pinner Association*), and Joan Davis (*Ruislip RA*), be empowered to set up a campaign with Nick Hurd MP to retain the site to benefit the local community, including possibly an appropriate petition.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Personal experiences could be noted for our records after the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** 7.45 pm, Thurs. 1st October, Post Graduate Centre Mount Vernon Hospital, speakers Marcia Saunders, Independent Chair, Health Education North West London, and Catherine O'Keefe, Dean of Healthcare Education, speaking about "Nurse Training in England"

The Meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.

Joan Davis, Chairman

*Notes: 1. Corrections to draft Minutes should be sent to the Chairman in writing – 'phone 01895 636095 for address.*

Chairman

Mrs Joan Davis

Tel: 01895 636095

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. Margaret Ross,

Tel: 020 8868 8429

Hon. Treasurer

Mr .Jon Spain

Tel: 020 8537 2835

Website: [www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk](http://www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk)