



NEWS-SHEET – APRIL 2015

STOP PRESS!

- a. **Election of our 2015-16 Executive Committee:** Nominations must reach our Secretary by 5th May.
- b. **Subscriptions:** Subscriptions fell due on 1st April. If not already renewed, please do so soon!
- c. **Our evidence:** Many items in this news-sheet come from our representative's reports, which can be obtained on request from our Secretary. The source of other information is usually noted.

1. NEW DIARY DATES:

- a. **Details of NHS Board Meetings:** Dates, venues and times are available from our Secretary.
- b. **Workshop on mental-health related homicides in London:** The Chief Nurse NHS England, London Region, invites service users, families and people working across health, police, social services etc to a workshop on 29th April 9am – 2pm at Coin Street Conference Centre, 108 Stamford St. London SE1 9NH. Register online at www.eventbrite.co.uk
- c. **Plant sale for Michael Sobell Hospice:** Saturday 9th May, 10am – 12.30pm, at the Hospice. Free entry and parking. Buy bedding plants, flowers, fruit and veg. Plant donations very welcome.
- d. **33 mile sponsored bike ride for Michael Sobell Hospice:** Registration 7.30am Sunday 17th May. The ride starts at 8am, starting and finishing at the hospice. It takes riders through Amersham, Bovingdon and Hemel Hempstead. Pre-registration £15 or £20 on the day.

2. NATIONAL NEWS

- a. **National tariff:**
 - The newly agreed “Enhanced Tariff Option” for 2015-16 increases payment for emergency hospital admissions beyond the agreed threshold, from 30% to 70% and the marginal rate for specialised services from 50% to 70%, as well as lowering efficiency requirements by 0.3%.
 - Despite this revised tariff, many hospitals will find it difficult to set a balanced budget for 2015/16.
- b. **Monitor's review of Foundation Trusts:** In the third quarter of the year the FT sector failed to meet Accident & Emergency targets, cancer waiting times and other targets. Patients attending FT A&Es rose by 8% versus last year and bed occupancy rates were up 2%. The aggregate deficit of FTs is £321m, five times higher than planned. Smaller acute FTs remain the most financially challenged - 78% of small and medium acute FTs are in deficit, with overspends on agency staff.
- c. **Challenging of CQC reports:** (*Health Service Journal 27 March 2015*) There is wide variation in the number of factual accuracy challenges to CQC inspection reports, topped by 500 challenges from East Kent Hospital University FT which led to changes to 9 of its CQC ratings. London North West Healthcare NHS FT challenged two ratings with no success.
- d. **March budget 2015 - more mental health support:** (*Healthwatch Harrow e-bulletin March 2015*) The budget includes, over five years, £15m for perinatal mental health services and £235m for children and young people's mental health services.
- e. **Victory in campaign to cancel diabetic fines:** The Government has agreed to reimburse diabetics who have been unfairly fined for not having a valid medical exemption certificate. Poor communication led many diabetics without a certificate to claim free prescriptions for years without any problems, but since September 2014 thousands were suddenly fined up to £100!

- f. **Health Service Journal names the top NHS Chief Executives:** (*HSJ 27 March 2015*) In its second annual list the HSJ judges rated Clair Murdoch, CEO of Central & North West London FT in the top 15! She was quoted as " ... an incredibly influential system leader who looks beyond her own organisation". Bob Bell of Royal Brompton & Harefield FT was listed amongst the top fifty CEOs, as was Cally Palmer, CEO of the Royal Marsden FT.

3. LONDON NEWS

- a. **Development of NW London Excellence Centre:** The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT has been selected to develop this training centre for healthcare support workers. That Trust is one of only four employers working with The National Skills Academy for Health to establish local Excellence Centres. These will act as regional hubs, developing collaboration between education and training providers and healthcare employers from the public, independent and voluntary sectors. They will develop e-learning resources including community care in areas such as dementia support, medicine management and recognition of signs of abuse, as well as courses on clinical skills.
- b. **London Ambulance Service:** Paramedic levels are understaffed. This and slow hospital handover times contribute to the failure of LAS to reach callers within target times.
- c. **NHS 111 'phone service:** Call back problems have caused concern. A recruitment programme is in place to recruit more clinicians to the service.
- d. **NW London's "Shaping a Healthier Future":** Ealing CCG has not yet agreed a date for transfer of maternity, paediatrics and gynaecology services from Ealing Hospital to other local hospitals, but Ealing Hospital's Maternity Unit is still expected to close this summer.

4. HARROW NEWS

London North West Healthcare NHS Trust:

- **New Chief Executive:** On David McVittie's retirement, the new Chief Executive Dame Jacqueline Docherty took up her appointment on 1st April. She has held many senior NHS roles, latterly as CEO West Middlesex University Hospital and she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2004 for services to nursing and the NHS.
- **Finance:** At end of February the year to date deficit was £54.7m, £23m more than budget, which included £10.6m overspend on the merger of Ealing Hospital Trust with NW London Hospitals Trust. Other overspend was due to an increase of 451 whole-time-equivalent (WTE) staff above budget, high agency costs covering medical and nursing vacancies, and the higher acuity of patients.
- **End of year financial forecast:** The Trust expects a deficit of £55.9m as reported to the Trust Development Authority in January, which when adjusted for non-receipt of merger funding gives a true variance from the initial plan of £8m, plus a shortfall of £2.9m in required savings. However negotiations are underway with the Trust's main commissioners for additional income related to ongoing over-performance on activity and the impact of NHS fines for failing targets.
- **Staffing:** There are around 1,387 WTE vacancies against a full establishment of 9,364 WTE staff.
- **Savings:** £26.2m savings is required for 2014-15. Savings to end of February accounted for 79.6% of the full year requirement.
- **Research:** The aim is to increase commercial turnover from £1m to around £2.5m, which is currently impossible due to lack of capacity to deliver medicines. A bid for charity funding is being developed to use the old Northwick Park A&E for clinical research after upgrading its pharmacy unit.
- **Car parking near the new Northwick Park A&E:** Some parking spaces are dedicated for drop-off of patients at the bottom of the entrance to the new A&E, and staff parking has been moved from spaces opposite the A&E to provide more parking spaces for patients.

GP services (*Healthwatch Harrow e-bulletin March 2015*) If you need an urgent appointment and cannot see your own GP, walk-in services are available without booking from 8am to 8pm seven days a week at Alexandra Clinic for Health and Social Care, 275 Alexandra Avenue, HA2 9DX and at The Pinn Medical Centre, 37 Love Lane, Pinner HA5 3EE.

Harrow Healthwatch: Harrow in Business has been reappointed, from three applicants, to provide support for Harrow Healthwatch for 2015-16. However, funding from Harrow Council has been slashed by 43%, with fresh contract emphasis on "enter and view" activities and greater public involvement.

5. HILLINGDON NEWS

a. Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group:

- **Finances:** The CCG now forecasts a £2,692k surplus at year end on Programme Budget and £508k surplus on running costs, but the underlying position at month 11 is a deficit of £7.7m, which compares with the underlying position planned for 2014/15, which was to reach recurrent balance.
- **Budget 2015-16:** Because Hillingdon CCG was assessed as 7.7% below its target allocation for 2014/15, it will get a higher than average increase of 7.6% for 2015-16. NW London's financial strategy provides it with an additional £8.8m, moving the CCG's underlying position from a deficit of £7.7m to a surplus of £3.3m.
- **Mental Health Services:** The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies service is recruiting additional staff. Problems due to fewer clinical sessions and to patients who do not attend, are being addressed.
- **Better Care Fund plan:** Hillingdon Council and Hillingdon CCG must now agree financial arrangements for the pooled fund of £17.991k, to be hosted by Hillingdon Council, operating like a joint bank account for 2015-16. The scheme's focus is dementia and avoiding falls and social isolation, aiming to reduce emergency admissions to acute care and long term residential care. It also supports telecare, third sector providers in the community, GP Networks, and increased support for carers. To keep people active mentally and physically it will also work with Public Health, the Library Service, and the Sports and Leisure Service.
- **Support for GP Networks:** The Business Case for GP Networks proposes £333k in 2015-16 for clinical, administrative and business manager support in 2015-16, shared between networks on a capitation basis.
- **Wheelchair service:** The CCG is procuring a new Wheelchair Service which will hold agreed levels of stock with each acute trust and other key providers for short-term loan of wheelchairs.
- **Community bed based provision for 2015-16:** The proposal is to "block" book 5 nursing and nursing/dementia care beds from suitable care home providers for patients who need a bed based service.

b. The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT:

- **New wireless Network:** The Trust's new system assists various users. The Acute Medical Unit uses it to monitor electrocardiogram devices. Laptops connected to the Unit reduce the need to print paper copies. Community midwives can connect to the network both on and off site. Many other uses are being developed.
- **Accident and Emergency Department issues:** There was a marked decrease in total attendances in February, although still 3% higher than in February last year but patient flows were compromised by an outbreak of norovirus which closed four wards for 8 days. The majority of target breaches were due to lack of bed availability, partially due to an unexplained increase in patients' length of stay.
- **Finances:** The end of February financial position remained on course for a deficit of £1m at year end, but the Continuity of Services Risk Rating remained at 3.
- **Car parking:** Charges from 1st April at both Hillingdon and Mount Vernon sites will be £1.50 per hour. It is intended that all car parking sites will become "pay on exit", but this will take some time to implement.
- **Staffing issues:** A new recruitment manager has joined the Trust. This Trust's staff turnover at 11% is lower than any of the surrounding hospitals. Recruitment continues in both UK and abroad.

- ### c. Michael Sobell Hospice:
- The charity Floral Angels works out of New Covent Garden Flower Market in Vauxhall. It recycles donated flowers from events, weddings and florists, to hospices, care homes, homeless shelters and other worthy causes in the Greater London area, relying on volunteers and donations for delivery – more volunteers are needed. Since January 2013 Michael Sobell House has received 136 floral bouquets and arrangements.

6. SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

- ### a. West Herts Hospitals Trust:
- The Trust's death rate has dropped. Between April and June 2013 its hospital standardised mortality ratio dropped from 108 to 85 and by September 2014 this had dropped by more than 21% - while the national decrease was only 3.3%.

b. Herts. Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group: Four clinical programmes have been developed to underpin the CCG's strategy:

- Children, Young People and Maternity
- Mental Health and Learning Disability
- Planned and Primary Care
- Urgent Care

Patients can be involved through their GP Patient Group, or a locality Patient Group – which is represented at meetings with GPs and other stakeholders and is part of the Patient and Public Involvement Committee, a CCG Board sub-committee. People with a particular interest in a service, condition, or treatment may wish to join the CCG's People Bank, to be called on for their expertise.

c. West Herts. Community Trust: Summary care records are being introduced (SCR)

- SCR's will contain health details eg allergies, current prescriptions, adverse medical reactions.
- Information will be very safe but accessible where needed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
- NHS staff must have the patient's permission to view the SCR.
- Eventually patients will have access to their own SCR

7. GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

NHS has to recruit one in four nurses from abroad *(From The Observer 5 April 2015)*

The NHS is facing such a chronic shortage of British nurses that one in four had to be recruited from abroad last year, new figures from the Nursing and Midwifery Council reveal. The shortfall follows cuts in the numbers of training places in each year under the coalition government. As a result, fewer "home-grown" nurses are coming through the system. The revelation comes when hospitals are under pressure to hire more nurses than ever before to care for the growing number of elderly patients and overall growth in the UK population.

... The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has praised the skills of foreign nurses who come to the UK, but warns that continually recruiting from abroad is expensive – and unfair on thousands of young Britons who would be keen on a career in the health service but are not given the opportunities. A recent RCN survey estimated that there are 54,000 home-grown applicants a year seeking training places. However in 2010-2011 there were only 20,092 nurse training commissions in the UK. In each of the next four years there were fewer places, a reduction of 8,000 British nurses coming into the system.

The new figures from the Nursing and Midwifery Council, which was set up in 2002 to maintain professional standards, show that whereas in 2009-10 11% of nurses were recruited from abroad, in 2014-15 that proportion rose to 29%. Around 7,500 of those were recruited from Spain, Italy and Portugal, with 665 from further afield, including the Philippines and other countries in the far east.

In a recent interview Pat Read, Chief Nurse at Luton and Dunstable University Hospital FT, said it costs around £2,500 to actively recruit a nurse from the EU before wages are taken into account.

... Government figures show that spending on agency staff by FTs alone has risen by £540m since 2010 - from £855m to £1.396bn in 2013-14.

Progress towards tailor-made cancer vaccines *(BBC News Health website 3.4.15)*

Ultra violet light can transform healthy skin cells into deadly melanomas by damaging the patient's DNA. The tumours contain hundreds of random mutations that are different in every patient. Now vaccines that target unique genetic errors in a patient's tumour have been developed in the USA. Tests on three people published in the journal Science showed the immune system could be trained to fight skin cancers. The team say the early results mark a "significant step" towards personalised cancer vaccines. Cancer Research in the UK called the tests "exciting but a very early-stage trial".

Chairman
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. Joan Davis
Mrs. Margaret Ross
Mr. Jon Spain

Email: joandavis@onetel.com
Email: maros@tinyworld.co.uk
Email: jonesse@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01895 636095
Tel: 020 8868 8429
Tel: 020 8537 2835

Website: www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk