



The Community Voice

MONITORING THE **NHS** IN
NW LONDON AND SW HERTS

NEWS-SHEET—FEBRUARY 2018

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GENERAL NOTES and STOP PRESS!

- Royal Brompton late news!** NHS England has given way! It has blessed the collaboration between Royal Brompton and Kings Health Partners (Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley FTs and Kings College London) including a joint CHD service; so the Brompton congenital heart services are saved!
- Hard of Hearing Campaign:** For additional papers or to report successes please contact the Chairman, details above.

2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital Board:** 2pm Wednesday. 21st February, Board Room, Royal Brompton Hospital (NB This is a change from Wednesday 28th February as previously published)
- West Herts Hospital Trust Board:** 9.30am Thursday 1st March, Spices Restaurant Watford General Hospital.
- East and North Herts Hospitals Trust Board:** 2pm Wednesday 7th March, Lister Hospital.
- Central and North West London FT Board:** Meetings not available at our February meeting are now known to be 9am Wednesday 14th March and Wednesday 9th May 2018.

NATIONAL

- NHS birthday:** The National Health Service will be 70 years old on 5 July 2018!
- Incidence of flu:** According to the BBC this winter's outbreak appeared to be peaking late in January after a fall in numbers being admitted to hospital, although the numbers were still high - around 4,000 in the week to 21st January.
- MPs awareness of Mental Health issues:** In January the Chief Executive of Central and North West London FT reported that her Trust had held an event for MPs' and their staff to provide information on mental health issues as these people are often young and with little experience of mental health concerns.

NORTH WEST LONDON NEWS

- Shaping a Healthier Future:** Funding for this bold programme was still not agreed at the end of January 2018.
- Central and North West London FT's staff morale:** The Trust's Chief Executive, Claire Murdoch, reported to her Board in January that an away day for senior managers showed that staff members are committed to the NHS and that morale is high despite the bigger than ever challenges they face – shortage of resources, growing demand and much pressure to meet high standards and NHS targets. She also spoke of the trust's support for Grenfell fire survivors, both immediately after the tragedy, and still ongoing.

- 3. London adolescents who need mental health beds:** Claire Murdoch also reported there are no adolescent mental health London beds. Adolescents requiring admittance are placed in local private beds or in out of area NHS beds. Her Trust is trying to address this.
- 4. CNWL Finance:** At end of November the Trust's deficit was £2.0m which was worse than plan by £0.3m and the current run rate indicates this is now around £4.6m deficit, but a recovery plan is now in place. However, the agency spend is within its cap.

NW London Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

- 1. Collaborative working across the NW London CCGs:** In September the eight CCGs agreed to share an Accountable Officer and a Chief Financial Officer. Further work is leading to appointment of a range of sub committees and a Joint Committee, which will meet in public at least 10 times per year.

HARROW NEWS

- 1. Harrow mental health funding:** It was reported to the Board of CNWL at its January meeting that although nationally Harrow CCG has one of the lowest allocations per head of population for mental health care it appears to have an average contribution for that purpose among London CCGs, which was acknowledged as contradictory. Further information is expected at the next Board Meeting.

London North West Healthcare Trust

- 1. Background:** One of the largest integrated care trusts in the country, this Trust brings together hospital and community services across Brent, Ealing and Harrow. Established in 2014, it has more than 8000 staff and serves a diverse population of about 850,000.
- 2. Flu advice:** Like other hospitals, in January the Trust was experiencing sustained pressure due to the high demand for emergency medical care. To protect its inpatients from flu, it asked other patients to change appointments if they had any flu like symptoms.

Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group

- 1. Better elderly care:** On 7th February a public event was held to promote working together of Harrow health and care teams and the community/voluntary sector to develop options for an improved and joined-up health and care service for local people aged over 65 years.

HILLINGDON NEWS

- 1. Hillingdon mental health funding:** As reported to the Central and North West London Board at its January meeting, although still nationally low, Hillingdon's funding has improved and no longer causes its former concern.

The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT

- 1. Visit of Secretary of State for Health:** Jeremy Hunt visited Hillingdon Hospital on 4th January, accompanied by Boris Johnson, MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. They were told about the Trust's many problems and that its estate is untenable - it needs a complete rebuild. It was agreed that Hillingdon Hospital is amongst the top five hospitals nationally requiring redevelopment. A number of other Ministers are expected to visit the hospital later in the year.
- 2. Staff Flu Vaccinations:** In November this Trust was the third best in London for the number of staff who had received vaccinations.
- 3. Care Quality Commission Inspection:** A CCG inspection is expected in the next few months.

4. **Car Parking:** There will be no change in the tariffs at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon hospitals in 2018 but there is likely to be an increase next year. This is in accord with the Trust's policy of parking charges being reasonable for the area. The Trust's charges are actually lower than some other local NHS Trusts and are in the lower band nationally. However upgrading of ticket machines in some car parks is now underway – during that process parking is free!
5. **Capital Programme 2018/19:** NHS Improvement has agreed a two year programme costing £8.14m, and £1.5m has been awarded for A&E expansion, bringing the total funding for the year to £9.64m, but the demand for capital expenditure far exceeds the allocation in every category and the total Trust estate backlog is currently £230m.
6. **Finance:** At end of December the Trust had a deficit of £9.2m, £1.3m behind plan, despite £1m efficiency savings achieved in the month as planned. More recently the Trust has received £603k Winter Pressures funding. Its underlying position is a £16m - £18m deficit for the year.
7. **December Performance:** There were three reported cases of clostridium difficile, making 11 cases year to date but commissioners have agreed that seven of these were not due to lack of care and the rest are still under review. Patient falls remained above the Trust target of 4.9 per 1000 bed days but none of the falls resulted in fractures. Caesarian births at 32% were above the 29% target. All cancer standards were met. The A&E Department was under significant pressure and only 80% of patients were treated or discharged within the four hour target of 90%. Emergency admissions increased by 13%.
8. **Staff Vacancy and Turnover:** Both rates fell in December, the vacancy rate to 13.4% and turnover in last 12 months to 11%.

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

1. **Update on Mount Vernon Cancer Centre from Dr Peter Ostler** *(as promised in our February Minutes):*
 - Consultants at MVCC favoured closer links with University College London and a memorandum of Understanding was agreed in November 2017.
 - Although MVCC's bid to use cyberknife to treat patients with brain metastases was rejected by NHS England (because the application lacked the correct signature!) it is hoped that MVCC will be able to do so under the contract held by UCL
 - There are national plans for 12 radiotherapy networks and MVCC hopes to be part of the North London network together with UCH, Royal Free and North Middlesex hospitals.
 - MVCC has performed very well in trials using cyberknife for stereotactic radiotherapy.
 - MVCC has met chemotherapy target times but the department is facing both staffing and volume challenges.

Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group

1. **Community Dermatology Contract Extension:** The contract with Concordia Health Limited which ended on 18th December 2017 has been extended for six months with the intention of approving a further 18 month extension from April 2018, hopefully at a reduced cost. However, referrals for suspected cancer will continue to be directed straight to the Hillingdon Hospital service and will not be triaged by the community service.
2. **Community Hernia Repair Service:** It is proposed to pilot for 18 months a community hernia repair service for inguinal hernia repairs, aiming to treat more patients locally, decrease the average cost of the repair procedure, reduce the waiting time for treatment and free up theatre and bed capacity in secondary care.
3. **Finance:** Overall at end of November the CCG was on target to achieve its year to date surplus of £0.3m and forecasting achievement of its planned in-year surplus of £0.5m, but

the QIPP performance was £2m behind plan year to date and needing to achieve 45% of its planned savings in the last four months of the financial year.

- 4. Integrated Performance Report for October 2017:** Performance was strong against a number of indicators eg A&E Trolley waits, six week diagnostics, 7 Of the 9 cancer standards, 15 of the 20 mental health standards and all the community measures but key challenges included London Ambulance Service response times and arrival to hospital handover times, A&E four hour waits, and waiting times for outpatient appointments.

SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE

West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust

- 1. Maternity services:** Feedback from new mothers showed significant improvement in the care provided. The survey, organised nationally by the Care Quality Commission, was sent to 312 women and responses were received from 124 of them. In the area of providing information there was huge improvement, possibly due to the fact that since 2015. the Trust has allowed someone close to the mother to stay with her during the birth.
- 2. Non-emergency patient transport:** The new telephone number for eligible patients to make queries or bookings is 0345 6051208. The contact centre is open Monday to Sunday from 8am to 6pm.

GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

Herbal Remedy Dangers

The Week 3rd February 2018

Herbal remedies such as St. John's wort and ginseng may be harmful when used alongside conventional drugs, reports The Guardian.

In a review of medical literature, researchers at Stellenbosch University in South Africa found several instances of alternative treatments appearing to interact with prescription drugs, resulting in potentially dangerous side effects. In one case, the autopsy of a 55-year-old who died while swimming concluded that the the ginkgo biloba supplements he had been taking may have inhibited his anti-seizure medicine. Other cases documented patients on statins appearing to suffer complications linked to flaxseed, St John's wort, and green tea.

"If you are taking herbal remedies you should disclose it to your clinician", said one of the report's authors, Dr Charles Awortwe.

A Lifetime of Obesity

The Week 3rd February 2018

Four in five obese children in the UK will remain dangerously overweight in adulthood – which could lead to them losing up to 20 years of healthy life, a new report warned.

The report, from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, urges the Government to break a "terrible destructive cycle" by, for instance, introducing measures to stop fast food shops opening near schools, and banning junk food advertisements from being shown on TV before the 9pm watershed.

One in three children are overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school, official statistics show.

Separately, a study in the US has suggested that the behaviours that lead to obesity are "contagious". Researchers looked at data gathered from military bases and found that when families move into communities with high levels of obesity, they are more likely to become obese themselves.