



The Community Voice

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

NEWS-SHEET—JANUARY 2018

Chairman

Mrs Joan Davis

Email. joandavis@onetel.com

Tel. 01895 636095

Hon. Treasurer

Mr Jon Spain

Email. jonesse@ntlworld.com

Tel. 020 8537 2835

Website. www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk.

GENERAL NOTES

1. **A Happy New Year** from our Executive to all members and friends of The Community Voice.
2. **Reports from Board Meetings in public:** As many Board meetings are now held bi-monthly our news sheets will in future be shorter than previously.

2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1. **The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT:** 2pm Wednesday 31st January, Board meeting in public, at Board Room Hillingdon Hospital.
2. **London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust:** 9.30am Wednesday 31st January Board Meeting in public at Northwick Park Maternity Unit, Floor 7.
3. **West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust::** 9.30am Thursday 1st February, Board Meeting in public at Spice Restaurant, Watford General Hospital.
4. **Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS FT:** 2pm Wednesday 29th February, Board Meeting in public at Royal Brompton Hospital Board Room

NORTH WEST LONDON NEWS

NW London Clinical Commissioning Groups

1. **Collaborative working across the NW London Clinical Commissioning Groups:** In September the eight CCGs agreed to appoint a shared Accountable Officer and a shared Chief Financial Officer. They are now agreeing to appoint a Joint Committee, to meet at least 10 times per year in public. In response to our representative's enquiry during Public Questions the Hillingdon CCG Chairman, Dr Ian Goodman, agreed to inform us when the dates, times, and venues of these meetings are known.

HILLINGDON NEWS

The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT

1. **Capital Programme 2018/19:** The Trust has an agreed 2 year capital programme in place valued at £8.4m, which includes A&E refurbishment possibly funded by the Department of Health or by loans. The £6m Skin Centre at Mount Vernon will be funded by loans. If the "Shaping a Healthier Future" programme is agreed the Trust will receive £73m over 3 years to extend A&E and Maternity facilities, plus £30m for backlog maintenance

Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group

- 1. Community Dermatology Contract Extension:** The contract with Concordia Health Limited has been extended to April 2018, hoping then to achieve a further 18 month extension at reduced cost. However, referrals for suspected cancer will not be triaged by the community service but will go straight to the Hillingdon Hospital 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. Exit from Special Measures:** Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission did a full inspection of the Trust's three hospitals in Summer 2017 and recommended that the Trust be taken out of "Special Measures", which was confirmed on 10th January 2018 by NHS Improvement, the regulator of hospital trusts. Congratulations to all the staff who worked hard to achieve this improvement.

GENERAL HEALTH NEWS

Ibuprofen

(From Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS FT's website)

"Ibuprofen 'damages blokes' balls, increasing their risk of being infertile," is the characteristically blunt, but inaccurate, headline in the Sun.

New research looked at a combination of clinical trial and laboratory evidence to see whether taking ibuprofen was associated with a change in men's testosterone levels.

While lower levels of testosterone could hypothetically lead to infertility, the study didn't look at this issue directly.

The clinical trial included just 30 healthy young men who received a large dose of ibuprofen (2 x 600mg daily) continuously for 6 weeks, which is far more than most people would take in a real-world situation. Exposure to ibuprofen did not alter levels of testosterone in the body, but did increase levels of another hormone called luteinising hormone (LH) which stimulates the testes to produce testosterone.

This situation of maintained testosterone levels but high LH is known as compensated hypogonadism, which is seen as men age. It suggests that reproductive function may be declining and could lead to symptoms such as erectile dysfunction and decreased sex drive.

But there's currently no evidence that men who take ibuprofen on a regular basis will go on to experience sexual or reproductive problems.

If you find yourself taking ibuprofen on a daily basis, you should seek medical advice if you haven't done so already. More effective treatments could be available.

