

Report of Dacorum Borough Council Representative on Herts. County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 9th September 2015

A meeting of the HCC Health Scrutiny Committee was held on 18th June 2015.

The responses from the NHS bodies in Hertfordshire to the information requests made at the budgets and Francis follow-up scrutiny of 25th March and 2nd April 2015, were presented to the Committee.

On the following information requests there was a response from other NHS bodies but not West Herts Hospitals Trust (WHHT):

- 8) How do you ensure that there is parity when using agency staff? What training takes place?
- 9) What is in place for data security especially with mobile working?
- 10) How are you working with HCC Childrens' Services to support Children Looked After (in care) into apprenticeships and other forms of work?
- 11) How do you share best practice across the county and learn from each other in Herts? This would include all organisations communicating with one another on a case by case basis.

The following information requests to only WHHT received no response:

- 29) What work is underway to reduce ambulance queuing at Watford General Hospital?
- 30) How are you performing against your workforce plan?

It was explained that a number of responses from WHHT missed the deadline. There will be a need for the Committee to discuss WHHT's Strategic Review and Watford Hospital's CQC inspection.

At the time of the meeting, WHHT's senior management team was unstable.

The East of England Ambulance Trust (EEAST) is to send the County Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) its ideas to address the issue of queuing at Watford Hospital. It was stated that there is not easy answer and it's not just about emptying A&E but the whole management of the hospital and moving patients through the hospital.

It was explained that there is no contact between HCC and the NHS bodies about getting looked after young people into apprenticeships.

The results of the CHQ inspection at Watford Hospital were awaited at the time of the meeting.

It was felt by some Committee members that in the responses there were a lot of statements and good ideas, but questions were not answered.

The report was noted.

There was an update on the Healthwatch GP access work. The work focused on the Stort Valley but can be applied across the county and will come back to the Committee. When it does, it will be decided whether a topic group is needed to feed into the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

Healthwatch does not have the resources to do this work across the county but there is a toolkit that local patient and public groups can use.

Some issues that came out of the work are national and the report has been escalated to Healthwatch England, which can use local evidence to campaign at a national level and provide information to the Department of Health. In the Stort Valley, every GP practice has a patient and public group that can meet with the practice manager and GPs to work to improve services. Does every GP practice in Dacorum have such a group?

The recommendations in the original report were sent to NHS England, that can meet with the practice manager and GPs to work to improve services. Does every GP practice in Dacorum have such a group?

The recommendations in the original report were sent to NHS England, the CCGs and GP practices. Healthwatch works with CCGs to find ways of improving service and this work is an evolving piece of work.

The West Herts. Strategic Review was discussed.

Analytical work has been done to understand the answer to the first two questions of the review:

- 1) How well are things working at the moment?
- 2) How do we need to plan to meet service requirements over the next 5 years?

Most people want to see service improvements and also increased efforts to prevent lifestyle-related diseases.

There is a need for things to be joined-up. Home First and those things that work well will expand across West Herts. The CCGs are investing in Home First. There is an aspiration to bring services closer to home. Big themes included prevention in the population, integration and empowering people.

Herts. Community Trust and HCC staff are working with WHHT staff to facilitate discharge into appropriate settings.

There will need to be investment in the development and delivery of the plan. Some funding may come locally but there may be a need to draw on national resources. Care in the community feels like the right direction of travel but

people in the community are overstretched and there needs to be a resource shift and different ways of doing things.

Your Care, Your Future is on track and a strategic outline case will be presented in the autumn.

The health sector in West. Herts. Is not in financial balance, with WHHT, Herts. Valleys CCG (HVCCG), Herts. Community Trust (HCT). Herts. Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT) being in different positions. WHHT is in the worst position. HVCCG's financial gap at the start of the year was about £20 million but the CCG intends to work to reduce it. The NHS health sector as a whole has a gap of £30-50 million in West Herts.

There will be a briefing on the review at the Health in Dacorum meeting of 9th September 2015.

Fiona Guest

Dacorum Representative

Herts. County Council Health Scrutiny Committee