

Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee Report for the Health in Dacorum Meeting of 29th September 2021

At its meeting on 07.07.21, Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC's) Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) conducted its annual patient experience scrutiny. This is HSC's ongoing commitment to the recommendations of the Francis Report of 2013 that outlined the failings at the Mid Staffs. Foundation Trust.

The health trusts scrutinised were Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST), Herts. Partnership University Foundation Trust (HPFT) and West Herts. Hospitals Trust (WHHT).

On 07.07.21 HSC divided into 4 groups, each one gathering evidence on one trust. The 2021 scrutiny concentrated on Covid-19's impact on providers' work.

For EEAST, HSC agreed the recommendations that the trust returns to HSC to evidence the measures that are being put into place and actioned at pace. Attendance by EEAST at HSC on 11.10.21 and 12.12.21 to update the committee is expected. HSC was also concerned about the prevailing culture at EEAST.

For HPFT, HSC heard how the trust had engaged with patients and carers during Covid-19. It requested a detailed update by January 2022 of the structured ways of gathering feedback through formal and anecdotal channels. It also requested a briefing note on drug and alcohol services.

WHHT informed HSC about their Transformation Programme. HSC requested an outline of the programme, key milestones, and what has happened to date prior to the major estate development work due to start around 2023. HSC recommended that WHHT develops a formalised, structured approach to collecting feedback from patients, carers and families to inform service monitoring and development.

At the meeting on 21.07.21, the future of urgent care provision at St. Albans and Harpenden was looked at. The minor injuries unit at St. Albans City Hospital has been closed since last year, and Herts. Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) said that it wanted to be transparent that it's preferred option was a booked appointment service through the Integrated Urgent Care Hub model.

There was an update on the Mount Vernon Cancer Services Review. There is a plan to move the management of it to a specialist cancer hospital trust, University College London Hospital (UCLH) and to relocate the Cancer Centre to the Watford General Hospital site.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest