

Report of Dacorum Borough Council Representative on Herts. County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 5th July 2016

On 17th March and 31st March 2016 the Herts. NHS budgets and follow-up

to the Francis Report (quality of care) were discussed, with members being split into groups to scrutinise two paired NHS organisations per group. The pairings of NHS organisations were logical with Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) and West Herts. Hospitals Trust being paired. The morning was devoted to scrutinising quality of care and the afternoon to scrutinising finances.

Last year, concern was expressed that some questions and information requests for NHS organisations were not responded to in a timely fashion. This year, a County Council officer said that he would chase NHS organisations to make sure that their responses were received by the deadline for them to go into the minutes and appear in the papers for the next meeting.

The Committee requested the Chairman to write to the appropriate minister for additional funding for nurse training at the University of Hertfordshire.

It was recommended that NHS bodies make use of County and Borough/District communications channels to reach a wider audience, and look at increasing the use of shared back office functions including local government offices.

Of the information requests made, the following were to HVCCG:

21) What are community navigators? Please outline their work with social prescribing and referrals.

22) What changes have HVCCG seen on the back of the campaign for increased use of pharmacies? How has perception changed, profile risen and use increased?

The following requests were made to WHHT, but withdrawn for a topic group to investigate further:

31) What is being done to investigate ways of prioritising and using information to improve services and quality of patient treatment? How are the patient stories related at Board meetings chosen?

32) What is being done to reduce vacancy rates and what has been the impact?

33) What is the Herts./Beds. group doing to help meet these vacancy challenges?

34) Is management information available on data suites for different teams to access and how has this improved quality of care especially in regard to meeting CQUINN targets?

35) How is the systematic collection of data in place trust-wide eg use of friends and family test?

36) What is the evidence of use of and effectiveness identified from the new serious incident reporting? How is this being communicated to staff?

37) What is the Trust doing to regain patient confidence in their services?

Cllr Jan Maddern substituted at the meeting of 19th May 2016 in the absence of the regular member.

Fiona Guest

Dacorum Representative, Herts. County Council Health Scrutiny Committee