

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 9 JANUARY 2014

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

Under the provisions of Board Procedure Rule 14, members of the public may question the Chairman of the Board at meetings. There is a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

Public Question 1

Questioner: Ann Freeman

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Question:

Whilst welcoming Dr. Andrew Howe's report, *Harrow and Barnet On The Move*, I, a carer of a son struck down with the serious mental health condition, schizophrenia, do not welcome the side lining of people with schizophrenia in the Report.

The Report quotes a 1999 survey to back up not searching for new initiatives and a reason for not working harder to engage with so many in Harrow with psychosis and schizophrenia. I am disappointed that the 2012 Schizophrenia Commission findings in their Report *The Abandoned Illness* and in particular, the linked *Effective Interventions in Schizophrenia-The Economic Case*, London School of Economics and *Working with Schizophrenia?* - The Work Foundation, Feb.2013, are not being used in Harrow as a means to understand and help those who develop obesity, diabetes, heart & other problems because of anti-psychotic medication they have to take to keep sane and to better understand symptoms of the illness... *schizophrenia's characteristic symptoms include lack of motivation and becoming withdrawn.*

Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb said: "*This government has made improving the overall health of people with mental health problems a bigger priority than ever before, and we're determined that mental health is treated with as much importance as physical health in the NHS. We have made it clear that we expect the NHS to reduce the number of premature deaths in people with mental health problems.*"

Please, Madam Chairman, will you please engage with us carers to make sure that the physical health of the group of people with the burden of schizophrenia in Harrow is neglected no longer?

Public Question 2

Questioner: Joan Penrose

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Question:

How are you going to support people with severe alcohol issues to gain access to good residential care?

Public Question 3

Questioner: Varsha Dodhia

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Question:

The current socio-economic and political environment is hugely challenging for the NHS Harrow CCG and Harrow Council in its role as commissioner; responsible for Social Care, Children's services and Public Health. Small local voluntary and community organisations have an important role to play in helping improve health and wellbeing. Creating a supportive environment in which they survive and flourish cannot be achieved by them alone.

Today's agenda and reports have numerous references to role of local community and voluntary groups in the 3 year plans put forward.

How does the Health and Wellbeing Board ensure that the diverse communities in Harrow including the seldom heard have a say in the way services are designed, commissioned, delivered and monitored? What will engagement with Harrow residents look like?

What resource commitment is this Board making to ensure that Harrow residents and Carers are empowered in sustaining their Health and Wellbeing?