

## **Report from the Health and Social Care Lead Members and the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

### **Our Sub-Committee**

The Health and Social Care Sub-Committee considers health, social care and wellbeing issues key to Harrow residents on a local, London wide and national level. Much of the scrutiny activity undertaken in 2013/14 was focused on a number of local changes which are being progressed and implemented, alongside broader changes to the NHS landscape as an outcome of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

As Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee and Health and Social Care Scrutiny Lead Members we consider key issues at both committee level and also outside of committee, a range of important health and social care issues that affect Harrow. As part of our role to champion health and social care issues for residents we work closely with the Director for Community Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Adult Social Services and the Director of Public Health, colleagues at Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and with other key providers of health and social care services in the borough.

### **Our key areas of focus throughout the year**

#### **Shaping a Healthier Future for NW London**

*Shaping a Healthier Future (SaHF)* is a programme set up by NHS NW London with an aim to improve healthcare for the two million people living in NW London. SaHF looks to ensure that the right care is delivered in the right places. The Joint Committee of the Primary Care Trust made its decision on the future configuration of services at its meeting on 19 February 2013. For Harrow this means that Northwick Park will remain as one of five major hospitals in NW London to provide A&E and Urgent Care Centre services. From a local perspective it is vital that we continue to monitor the pressure on Northwick Park due to the loss of facilities for Ealing and Brent residents.

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) was set up at the beginning of the SaHF consultation to provide external scrutiny on the impact of the proposals. The JHOSC consists of 9 other London Boroughs, including Harrow and will continue monitoring SaHF.

#### **Accident & Emergency Waiting Times**

The committee are monitoring how North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (NWLHT) is improving the emergency care at Northwick Park Hospital and Central Middlesex Hospital. We are concerned that current performance level at Northwick Park Hospital is unacceptable and whilst there are signs of improvement, the system has not been operating or delivering outcomes as it should. We hope that the £21m investment of a new emergency department will bring expansion and improvement. However, until the committee are satisfied we will continue to monitor performance.

#### **Merger of Ealing Hospital Trust and North West London Hospitals**

## **DRAFT (as at JANUARY 2014)**

Throughout the year, the Sub-Committee have been regularly updated on progress on plans to merge Ealing Hospital Trust (EHT) and North West London Hospitals Trust (NWLHT). The merger proposes to realise savings by replacing the two trust boards with one, and sets out a vision for a clinically led and patient centred organisation for residents in Brent, Ealing and Harrow.

Due to the outcome of *Shaping a Healthier Future* and other financial challenges the merger has incurred delays. Approval for the revised business case will be sought in April 2014.

### **Mental Health**

In April 2013 the Sub-Committee considered performance of mental health service providers. Members voiced particular concern around Payment by Results and the outcomes for residents. The committee therefore requested that Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Harrow CCG and Council officers (as providers and commissioners) return to the Sub-Committee. Following a meeting with the Chief Operating Officer at CNWL, a presentation and report was presented to the committee on 11 February 2014....

### **Harrow Community Nursing Service**

District nursing provision in Harrow has been an area of concern for the committee. In October 2013, partners advised the committee on the changes to the delivery model aimed at improving efficiencies and reported an increase in patient satisfaction at the committee in October 2013. We do however continue to have concerns about the skill mix of staff on front line services and whilst we understand that savings efficiencies are required, members agree this is an optimum service for residents and therefore we will continue to monitor performance in 2014/15.

## **Projects**

### **NHS Health Checks**

In April 2013, the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) launched a programme to support local authority scrutiny functions to review their local approach to NHS Health Check and improve take up. NHS Health Checks are a mandatory service which local authority public health functions have been required to deliver from 1 April 2013. A bid for support was made by the London Boroughs of Barnet and Harrow (who have a shared Public Health function) and the bid was successful.

Using a range of methodologies, this scrutiny review enabled us to identify ways in which NHS Health Checks can be promoted within each borough under the leadership of the Joint Director of Public Health. This included; exploring the extent to which NHS services promote the NHS Health Check to eligible residents and considering the capacity of GPs, local pharmacies or other suitable settings to undertake Health Checks. Broadly, our recommendations include measures to improve these issues and focus on service promotion, targeting specific groups who statistically have a higher prevalence to certain diseases, and understand better barriers to take-up. We look forward to receiving the Executive's response to our recommendations in 2014.

## **Other areas of work**

This year the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee were consulted on;

- Proposals for redistribution of resources from day assessment unit to memory services in Harrow.
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust Foundation Trust application.
- The Harrow Local Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2012/13
- Director of Public Health Annual Report
- The Quality Account of key providers in Harrow including North West London Hospitals, Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and Central and North West London Foundation Trust.

## **Looking to the future**

Working closely with health partners locally and across London, we will continue to keep engaged with emerging policies and monitor service development changes.

Areas of focus will include:

- Continuing Harrow's contribution to the JHOSC - Shaping a Healthier Future programme
- Tracking progress of the public health transition
- The merger of Ealing Hospital Trust and North West London Hospitals Trust
- Mental Health service provision.
- CQC's local performance will be considered following national concerns around the inspection of care homes.



**Cllr Vina Mithani**

Chair, Health and Social Care Sub-Committee



**Cllr Victoria Silver**

Vice-Chair, Health and Social Care Sub-Committee



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**DRAFT (as at JANUARY 2014)**