

**REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**1.1** Health Scrutiny Committee met 17 December to consider:

- **East & North Herts Trust (ENHT)**
- **Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH)**

**1.2 East & North Herts Trust (ENHT)**

- Lorenzo backlog update
- phlebotomy access
- CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection report

We were pleased to note the improvements made to the access to phlebotomy area.

The committee was informed that progress has been made to address the discharge backlog created when a new IT system, Lorenzo, was introduced. Members were assured that GPs were informed (by letter, email or phone) of the medication required by discharged patients.

We were expecting a report on the ENHT CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection; however, the publication of the report was delayed and ENHT will attend a future committee to share the CQC action plan.

**1.3 Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH)**

- CQC action plan
- Estate update

We received an update on the progress of the Trusts Quality Improvement Plan including its response to CQC findings. The committee heard that good progress has been made since the previous inspections, when the trust had been rated requires improvement. There are now fewer requires improvement scores, but the trust acknowledges that there is scope for further improvement and is actively working to address this.

The Department for Health & Social Care expects the new hospital to be built by 2025. This is a challenging timeline. The committee clarified that the new hospital will be built with the flexibility to expand. This may be required to address potential increases in patient numbers due to the house building planned for the area. We were encouraged to hear that the Trust is working with specialists to help build in flexibility into the design of the new hospital to . We will be kept up to date on progress.

- 1.4 Following discussion of the CQC inspections of PAH and ENHT we have asked our officers to liaise with CQC with a view to hearing from them at a future committee. This will enable members to understand the work of CQC and the implications of any changes to the inspection framework. Councillors of the authority will be welcome to sit in when a date has been finalised.
- 1.5 The chair Healthwatch Herts (HWH) regularly attends HSC and is a respected voice representing the patient consumer voice. Members of the committee are not fully appraised of its work and HWH will be attending a future committee to clarify what it does and how this assists the health world, HCC and the work of the committee. Again, I would welcome any county councillors who wish to join us when the session is confirmed

2.1 Health Scrutiny Committee met 14 January to consider:

- **Update on moving to an ICS (Integrated Care System)**

We heard how stakeholders will help to deliver the strategic vision and objective of care closer to home. This included contribution from pharmacy, HUC (Herts Urgent Care) and objectives of the PCNs (Primary Care Networks). This was an immensely useful and well received session. The committee will continue to build on this as the ICS and ICPs (Integrated Care Partnerships) evolve.

3.1 **HSC Site Visits**

**Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC).** A review of the services provided at Mount Vernon took place last year. Although there are strong patient outcomes and feedback from patients and carers is good the fabric of the estate is poor. There are also longer-term concerns at the viability of Mount Vernon as a standalone facility. We heard that Mount Vernon is only one of two remaining such facilities. NHS England is working with providers to develop a solution to provide a sustainable and robust service. This may involve the committee in consultation later. In the meantime, we are keeping a watching brief as negotiations take place. Along with the vice chairman I attended an informative briefing with the chairman and vice chairman of LB Hillingdon Health Scrutiny.

4.1 **Member Development**

As part of the actions following the Scrutiny Review, I am pleased to say that we are also revising our development and training offer for scrutiny councillors. Officers are developing a programme of lite bite sessions to focus on key areas.

5.1 **Forthcoming Scrutinies**

Officers continue to work on our behalf on the programme of scrutinies:

1. SOC engagement – postponed (**2020 date tbc**)
2. Public Health outcomes – **10 March**
3. Drug & alcohol services – **May 2020**

The vice chairman, Labour spokesperson and I will be looking for volunteers for items 1 and 3 in due course. If you are interested in participating in any of these scrutinies please let us or Natalie know.

## **5.2 Forthcoming Scrutiny Seminars**

The following scrutiny seminar for councillors is planned jointly with Overview & Scrutiny. All Councillors are welcome to attend:

- Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children **30 April**

**Seamus Quilty**  
**Chairman Health Scrutiny Committee**  
**February 2020**