



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 January 2013

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

Wards Affected:
ALL

Accident and Emergency performance and activity at Northwest London Hospitals NHS Trust

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Northwest London Hospitals NHS Trust previously reported to the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May 2012 on performance at A&E (Accident and Emergency) departments. This report provides an update on performance particularly in light of current issues faced by Central Middlesex Hospital and Northwick Park Hospital.
- 1.2 Activity at Central Middlesex Hospital A&E continues to decline although it has been busy over the last six weeks. The trust will be looking at how the emergency pathway can be consolidated and improved within the context of the possible outcomes of "Shaping a Healthier Future".
- 1.3 Northwick Park A&E's main challenge, as the committee were informed at the last meeting in November, is lack of assessment space within the department and of bed capacity across the trust. The majority of breaches of the four hour A&E waiting target are a consequence of insufficient bed capacity. Performance against the four hour target has worsened over winter when the need for admissions has increased; this is a result of the lack of bed capacity. To address the assessment and acute bed capacity problems the trust is undertaking a complete site review. It is also anticipated that the £20m redevelopment of the A&E at Northwick Park will address some of the issues around lack of assessment space.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the report and question representatives Northwest London Hospitals NHS Trust on the current challenges faced by A&E services at Central Middlesex and Northwick Park hospitals.

Contact Officers

Mark Burgin
Policy and Performance Officer

Tel – 020 8937 5029
Email – andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk

Phil Newby
Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement
Tel – 020 8937 1032
Email – phil.newby@brent.gov.uk