



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11th June 2013

Report from Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Emergency Services at Northwick Park and Central Middlesex Hospitals

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Members of the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be aware of the ongoing issues around Emergency Services at North West London Hospitals Trust. This report outlines the key current problems, notably with meeting the four hour waiting time targets. It cites issues such as increased pressure at Northwick Park Hospital, where Emergency Department attendances have decreased but combined Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centre attendances continue to increase; it also cites issues around long stays in beds and delays in discharge causing a blockage in the emergency pathway. Attendance at Central Middlesex continues to decline.
- 1.2 On 6 March 2013 NHS London chaired a risk summit, held to consider the risks and possible solutions around Emergency Care. The trust and local CCGs have now submitted a high-impact action plan intended to deliver improvements in a short timescale. The immediate steps to address this are outlined in the report, particularly increasing bed capacity at Northwick Park and increased use of Central Middlesex. Other actions around the discharge process and referral of ED patients directly to a consultant are also being developed.
- 1.3 Other plans that were already in place are also covered in the report, including projects/workstreams to reorganise the services across Northwick Park and Central Middlesex, the new Emergency Department at Northwick Park and new operating theatres at Northwick Park.
- 1.4 The Care Quality Commission made an unannounced visit from the Care Quality Commission, whose inspection included the Emergency Department. The official findings from this have not yet been received.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the report and question officers on the range of issues raised, particularly

the current issues faced around waiting times, the risks identified at the risk summit and the immediate and long term plans proposed for improving the delivery of Emergency Services in North West London, with a view to establishing whether these plans will provide the improvements needed.

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