



**Health Partnerships Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Report from the Assistant Chief  
Executive**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**18 Weeks Referral To Treatment Incident and Urology  
Serious Incident**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The committee was informed at the last meeting that North West London Hospitals had discovered in February 2013 that 60% of patients on North West London Hospital Trust (NWLHT) waiting lists did not have an open care pathway and that as a result a large number of patients had been waiting longer than 18 weeks for treatment. NWLHT were asked to return to provide an update to this meeting.
- 1.2 The report restates the plans to expand some areas of capacity including theatres and to commission external providers in order to cope with the additional capacity required to deal with the large volume of affected patients with some additional details.
- 1.3 Also highlighted is a different, more recently identified, incident that has occurred in urology, where patients booked on a planned waiting list for diagnostic/cystoscopy procedures had not been offered an appointment. As at October 2013 there were 196 patients who had waited over ten weeks for a flexible cystoscopy appointment. Following an internal review NWLHT is currently collating the results of the review.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The committee is recommended to question officers from NWLHT on the contents of the report and in particular:
- how much research it has done into the impact on patient safety and what has been done to address any issues found and to minimise risk to

patients.

- the steps being taken to address the excess capacity needed to deal with the affected patients and return the waiting lists to a manageable size.

2.2 The committee is also recommended to question officers on the serious incident in urology including:

- how the incident arose;
- the level of impact on patient safety;
- the actions being taken to address the problem;
- what is being done to ensure that no similar incidents can occur in the future.

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