



**Health Partnerships Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**
18th March 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 Members of the committee will be aware that North West London Hospitals 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. They will also be aware of a 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. The committee asked NWLHT to return to this meeting with a further update and, in particular, to provide more information on the impact on, and risks to, patient safety.
- 1.2 All deaths among patients waiting longer than 18 weeks in the last two years have been reviewed as have all patients waiting longer than 18 weeks for planned urology treatment. The trust has concluded that there has been no significant harm identified to individual patients, but there was an increased level of risk to patients who had waited an excessive length of time for treatment. A patient level review of risk is currently being instigated by the trust.
- 1.3 The committee will already be aware of the measures being taken to address the backlog of patients. The report provides a progress update and the number of patients who have been waiting for more than 18 weeks has now reduced to around 600.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The committee is recommended to question officers from NWLHT on the contents of the report and in particular on the review into patient safety and the assessment that no patients had suffered significant harm.

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