



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 March 2013

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

Wards Affected:
ALL

Incident involving Pathology Service for Brent and Harrow PCTs

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 There have been problems reported with pathology services being provided to Brent GPs. These are currently being investigated and the report outlines the findings and position to date.
- 1.2 The company TDL began providing pathology services to Brent PCT, Harrow PCT and North West London Hospitals Trust in May 2012. Services provide include Haematology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Histopathology and Cytopathology.
- 1.3 A serious incident was logged in December 2012 after a concern was raised by a GP about the new system. It became clear that this was not an isolated case, and another GP complained of spurious results, missing results and samples not processed. It was further identified that training for GPs had not taken place and that alleged meetings with GPs had not in reality occurred. A number of issues have now been identified with different test results and these are listed in the report.
- 1.4 A number of issues have now been identified which are included in the report. Root causes identified so far include; general equipment stability, IT systems and sample handling systems, laboratory staff familiarity with equipment and systems, customisation of system to meet clinical needs of the trust and primary care.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the report and question officers on the problems with the pathology service; including the impact it has had on patients results and diagnoses to date, the remedial measures being taken and what assurances can be offered that similar problems will not occur again.

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