



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 March 2013

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

Wards Affected:
ALL

Emergency Services at Northwick Park and Central Middlesex Hospitals

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested an update on issues faced by the Emergency Department at Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH), particularly its ongoing overnight closures. This report covers wider long-term plans and prospects for the provision of Emergency Services at the two hospitals.
- 1.2 The report outlines a number of issues faced by Emergency Services within the trust. These are principally that:
- the trust has ongoing problems recruiting staff and is heavily reliant on locum staff;
 - the Emergency Department at Central Middlesex has ongoing overnight closures due to concerns over the ability to properly staff the service overnight;
 - increasing patient levels at Northwick Park along with decreasing patient levels at Central Middlesex.

To address these issues, the Trust has established a project board to explore with staff and stakeholders how it can reorganise its emergency services across the two sites.

- 1.3 The proposals in the Shaping a Healthier Future programme were agreed by the Joint Committee of PCTs for North West London in February. These proposals include the closure of the Emergency Department at Central Middlesex. Whilst these changes are expected to take up to three years, the Trust believes it is sensible to start discussions now.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the report and question officers on the impact of the proposals and what outcomes they expect the changes to deliver.

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