

Briefing for the Health and Wellbeing Select Committee Meeting

Wednesday 27 January 2016

1. Update on A&E performance

Between the months of March to December 2015, an average 89.3% of patients were seen in A&E at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) within four hours. In December this percentage dropped to 86.6% against a national target of 95%.

The System Resilience Group (SRG) continues to oversee implementation of a four-hour recovery plan to strengthen urgent care performance and ensure patients receive the highest quality care. The SRG brings together partners from across the local health and care system to plan urgent care services, reduce admissions via A&E (by ensuring non-life threatening emergency needs are met in or close to people's homes), improve patient flow through hospital and ensure appropriate after care and support at home or in the community.

2. Health and care partners work together to get patients '*Home for Christmas*'

'Home for Christmas' was a system-wide initiative to increase patient flow through the RUH, ensure people benefited from a timely, effective and safe discharge and ease pressure on beds over the Christmas period by creating some additional capacity. Monitor had asked the RUH to create a 20% reduction in bed occupancy (118 beds) by Christmas Eve to help the system cope with the anticipated increased demand during the rest of the month and New Year period.

The event was led by the CCG with the support of the SRG. Representatives across our different organisations met daily as part of a tactical coordinating group to assess and put in place the right package of care for those patients who were sufficiently well to be discharged to move home or into the community. By midnight on Christmas Eve just over 30% of beds were unoccupied at the RUH.

Unfortunately, the period post-Christmas has proved very challenging with difficulties in maintaining good patient flow predominantly due to issues with a lack of domiciliary care provision and shortages of community beds.

3. Results of GP survey

A recent patient survey has highlighted high levels of satisfaction with GP services locally. The GP Patient Survey is an England-wide survey conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of NHS England. 3,139 patients completed the survey in Bath and North East Somerset during spring and summer 2015. 92% rated their experience of their GP surgery as good (compared to a national average of 85%), 90% were able to get the appointment they needed (national average was 85%) and 87% said it was easy to get through to practice staff on the telephone (national average of 70%). Satisfaction

with out of hours' services was lower at 73% but this was still higher than the national average of 67%. The survey results are being shared and discussed within practices to further improve patient experience. The complete survey results can be found here: www.bathandnortheast Somersetccg.nhs.uk/documents/financial-reports/gp-patient-survey-reports

4. NHS England planning guidance and financial allocation

Before Christmas NHS England (NHSE) published its planning guidance which helps local NHS organisations plan over the next six years to deliver a sustainable, transformed health service and to improve quality of care, wellbeing and NHS finances. As part of the guidance, we are required to produce an operational plan for 2016/17 and a five year Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) across the entire local health and care system to drive forward NHSE's Five Year Forward View. We will be working very closely with all our partner organisations and engaging with the public on the development of the STP over the coming months.

At the start of the New Year, the CCG received notification of its funding allocation for core services in 2016/17. There is a 3.1% increase in budget from £216,723,000 in 2015/16 to £223,389,000 in 2016/17. NHSE has introduced changes to its allocation process to ensure all CCG areas are funded appropriately for their expected population growth and budget increases vary across different areas from 1.39% to 9.7%.

5. New Genomic Medicine Centre planned

A new Genomic Medicine Centre, based in Bristol, is to open by February 2016 as part of a three-year project to transform diagnosis and treatment for patients with cancer and rare diseases.

The CCG is member of a partnership called the West of England NHS Genomic Medicine Centre which includes NHS providers and commissioners, universities, patient organisations and the West of England Academic Health Science Network.

Across the UK, clinicians will be collecting and decoding 100,000 human genomes – complete sets of people's genes – that will enable scientists and doctors to understand more about specific conditions. It could allow personalisation of drugs and other treatments to specific genetic variants. Patients choosing to be involved will take part in a test which will then be processed in a lab at Southmead Hospital, before being sent nationally for sequencing.

National Updates

- At the time of submitting this briefing (21.01.16), the British Medical Association has suspended strike action planned by junior doctors on 26 January. Talks are continuing between the doctors' union and government over the junior doctors' contract and strike action is still scheduled for 10 February if the dispute cannot be resolved. The RUH were able to ensure 91% of planned activity went ahead as usual during the strike on 12 January. 22 outpatient clinics were cancelled.