

HEALTHWATCH LEICESTERSHIRE

LCC HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 27TH NOVEMBER 2013

Geoffrey Smith will represent Healthwatch at this meeting and looks forward to taking a full 'participating observer' part in the discussions.

Healthwatch wishes to make the following points on specific agenda items.

Item 9 LPT Quality Improvement Programme

Healthwatch has been pleased to be part of the Quality oversight and Improvement Group established by NHS England to deal with the issues arising from the Bradgate Unit.

We hope that the timescales set out on pages 44 -86 of the report will be improved on so that the improvements in services can be delivered for patients and the public at the earliest possible date.

We also suggest that Healthwatch should also be involved in the Quality Improvement Programme Board. This would be in line with the recommendations made in the Robert Francis Report on the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust to ensure the involvement of patients and public.

Item 10 WL CCG and ELR CCG Emergency Care Update

Healthwatch is concerned that despite the work of the Urgent Care Working Group the performance trajectory has not yet been achieved. It urges the CCGs to work with the County Council, LPT and voluntary sector partners to reduce the numbers of delayed discharges that arise because of the lack of suitable 'other than hospital' accommodation for these patients. Healthwatch will be interested in how the County's share of the additional £150million being provided to CCGs by NHS England to meet 'winter pressures' is to be used.

Item 11 UHL Update on current issues

Emergency Floor

Healthwatch welcomes the review of options leading to a better solution to the challenges that the Trust faces. It is however concerned that the recent report 'Transforming urgent and emergency care services in England' may lead to further delay in implementing the scheme, and even the potential reduction in the services provided by UHL. Healthwatch asks the Committee to press the NHS TDA to make the earliest possible decision on the proposed scheme because the present situation is most unsatisfactory for patients and the public.

CQC Wave 2 Acute Hospital Inspection Programme

Healthwatch looks forward to providing information and evidence to the CQC inspectors.

Financial Position 2013/14

Healthwatch is very concerned that the Trust has been unable to contain expenditure to its published forecast. It appreciates the decision to increase the nurse staffing which when implemented will address the concerns expressed by patients and the public. Healthwatch would welcome further information on the ways in which the Clinical Commissioning Groups are showing strong financial commitment to ensure that the pressures on the Trust can be mitigated.

Item 12 EMAS Estates Strategy

Healthwatch has noted with concern the recent NHS England Risk Summit on EMAS performance. It is concerned that the management changes should not disrupt the progress on the implementation of the Estates Strategy and consequential improvement in service performance.