

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE CCG PATIENT CONGRESS
Summary of meeting on Wednesday 19th October 2016

Key Updates

Congress Membership Refresh – members heard that the congress aims to refresh its membership by a third every two years and that the CCG is therefore looking for volunteers to stand down in order to provide opportunities to new candidates.

Summary of news, views and perspectives from patient participation and locality groups and third sector organisations

- North Staffs Users Group has been successful in gaining some funding for three events next year, 'Celebrating Volunteers', they will take place in Newcastle in February, then Stoke in June and the Moorlands in September. The first planning meeting is taking place on Tuesday 15th November at 1.30pm at the Dudson Centre.
- Ten Healthwatch events are currently planned across Staffordshire and Stoke, the first event will be on 2.11, 4.00 – 7.30pm at Biddulph, it's a drop in session regarding 'Transformation', at 6pm there will be a panel discussion with questions and answers session. Ambassadors for the Programme are taking out a shared message about the Pan-Staffordshire Transformation Programme and further volunteers are being sought from communities across the county

Policy on the Prioritisation of Healthcare Resources

Congress members were asked to review the draft policy. Congress members heard that North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) receive a fixed budget from central government with which to commission (buy) all healthcare services required by its population without overspending. The CCGs do not have enough money to commission everything that everyone would wish for, so they must find a fair way to make decisions and invest resources in interventions that achieve the *greatest health gain* for the population.

The Policy on Prioritisation explains the process of scoring interventions, such as drugs, or services, in order of relative clinical value. CCGs call on the diverse expertise of its Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG) members to make recommendations in line with NHS England's approach to commissioning services, treatments and technologies. 'CPAG' makes recommendations about commissioning but is not a decision making group.

Congress members raised the following points 1) that it is important that the paper is meaningful and worthwhile to show the general public that they are being listened to and their concerns acknowledged and; 2) that the information really needs to be put over to the public in a positive and clear manner to be effective

Community Hospitals Update

Becky Scullion gave an overview of the presentation 'My Care My Way, Home First' and explained the concept and purpose of this initiative. Basically this involves patients being cared for more in their home environment rather than spending excessive and unnecessary amounts of time in hospital. BS stressed the clinical and financial reasons for moving away from a system that is so reliant on hospital beds. Beds have temporarily closed to admissions at Cheadle and Bradwell. Cheadle was a planned change but beds at Bradwell were closed earlier than expected as the University Hospitals Trust served notice that it would no longer provide this service for the CCGs after the end of October.

Leek and Haywood Hospitals continue to provide a high level of nursing care. Regarding the additional capacity in nursing homes she also stressed that CCG staff are monitoring dignity and quality of care, with weekly updates in place.

Four engagement events are planned for November 2016 subject to approval by NHS England. Venues are booked for these events and everything is ready to go ahead, information will be communicated widely once confirmation is received from NHS England.

Congress members raised that 1) community care only works if the package for that person/ individual is correct, that it is not just about money but the right training and culture/ attitudes, good social care is really crucial; 2) more social care is important to provide the necessary support for many people who require help; 3) concerns that moving patients out of hospital beds who have nowhere to actually go to is a major concern; 4) the level of mental health support in the community is not enough; 5) funding a healthcare system that is not working effectively is a waste and patients who are in mental health crisis need immediate help and 6) mental health funding is always much lower compared to other areas.

PPG Survey and Development Plan

Congress members heard that 1) there are a few gaps in the current membership but that there is currently a good mix of members in the North Staffs area; 2) a survey had been sent out to members, to date 50% had been received overall; 3) PPG distribution lists will be checked for accuracy; 4) the next step would be to speak to individual practices who did not complete the survey 5) PPG week is going to be from 24th June 2017

Congress members emphasised that PPG's are a great resource in the community.

Date of the next meeting: The next Joint CCG Patient Congress meeting would be held on Thursday 15th December 2016.