

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">20 October 2014</h3>
Title	Accident and Emergency: Winter Preparations
Report of	Governance Service
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A –Trolley Wait Information Provided by the Royal Free London NHS Trust (as requested at Committee’s last meeting)
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Summary

The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust will be attending the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to provide an update on A&E preparations for the coming winter and highlights lessons learned from last winter in relation to Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital.

This Trust have also been asked to provide the Committee with an update on a piece of work undertaken by the Trust to identify care homes which were sending large numbers of elderly people to A&E, and on-going work around this issue.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the update from the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and ask questions.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Committee have requested to be provided with an update report from The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust on A&E preparations for the coming winter and highlights lessons learned from last winter.
- 1.2 At their meeting on 19 September 2014, the North London Central Sector Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Committee received an item on A&E and Care Homes. Following this meeting, the Chairman has requested that the Committee are provided with additional information on:
 - A update on the piece of work referred to at 1.2, highlighting any patterns of high numbers of admission on elderly patients to A&E from care homes, and analysis of why this could be; and
 - If any training had been facilitated for staff at care homes in relation to A&E when it was appropriate for patients to be admitted to A&E;

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 By receiving this update, the Committee will be able to maintain an oversight A&E on preparations at Barnet and Chase Farm for the winter season, as well as lessons learned, and to be kept up to date on the piece of work highlighted at section 1.2 above on the admission of elderly patients to A&E from care homes.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not Applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Following consideration of this item, the Committee will be able to determine any further actions that they wish to pursue.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 5.3 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan are: –
 - Promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough;
 - Support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being; and

- Improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study.
- 5.4 The work of the Barnet Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the delivery of the following outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan:
- To sustain a strong partnership with the local NHS, so that families and individuals can maintain and improve their physical and mental health; and
 - To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed over 55 population in the borough to encourage and support our residents to age well.

5.5 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.6 None in the context of this report.

5.7 Legal and Constitutional References

5.7.1 Section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013/218; Part 4 Health Scrutiny by Local Authorities provides for the establishment of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees by local authorities.

5.7.2 Health and Social Care Act 2012, Section 12 – introduces section 2B to the NHS Act 2006 which imposes a new target duty on the local authority to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of people in its area.

5.7.2 The Council's Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) sets out the terms of reference of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as having the following responsibilities:

“To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to health issues which impact upon the residents of the London Borough of Barnet and the functions services and activities of the National Health Service (NHS) and NHS bodies located within the London Borough of Barnet and in other areas.”

“To make reports and recommendations to Council, Health and Well Being Board, the Secretary of State for Health and/or other relevant authorities on health issues which affect or may affect the borough and its residents.”

“To scrutinise and review promotion of effective partnerships between health and social care, and other health partnerships in the public, private and voluntary sectors.”

5.8 Risk Management

- 5.8.1** Not receiving this report would present a risk to the Committee in that they would not be kept up to date on issues surrounding Accident and Emergency matters.

5.9 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.9.1** Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision-making in the council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to the equality duties when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day to day business requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review. Health partners as relevant public bodies must similarly discharge their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and consideration of equalities issues should therefore form part of their reports.

- 5.9.2** In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

5.10 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.10.1** None in the context of this report.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1** None