

Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Update to Overview and Scrutiny Board, 3 May 2017

A key activity for the Sub-Committee during this period was a visit to Queen's Hospital to allow scrutiny of a number of issues relating to patients' experience and their discharge from hospital. Members visited Sunrise B ward and held valuable discussions with ward nursing staff covering the discharge of patients and how partners, including of course the Council, work together to facilitate this.

The Community Treatment Team explained their role in offering occupational therapy etc in the community with the overall aim of treating people at home and avoiding admission to hospital unless absolutely necessary. This is felt to be much the better option for a person's overall long term health.

Finally, during the visit, the Hospital Trust's Director of Integration explained her proactive approach to discharging people from hospital. Whilst of course a person should only be discharged from hospital when it is clinically safe to do so, the Trust officer felt strongly that it was better for older people – of which this borough has the highest proportion, to recover at home where possible. It is hoped that a briefing for all Councillors on this subject can be arranged in due course.

At the time of writing, the Sub-Committee is due to meet on 25 April where we will consider the latest work on the Integrated Care Partnership which will have significant impact on both health and social care across Outer North East London. We will aim to scrutinise in particular the development of the locality model in Havering as part of the Partnership work.

There are of course numerous links between health, social care and the quality of housing, particularly for older people and the Sub-Committee will therefore also be scrutinising the Council's Older People's Housing Strategy and progress made against this. Members will also hold discussions with a senior clinician from the North East London NHS Foundation Trust concerning Open Dialogue – a relatively new treatment for some mental health conditions that is being piloted in this area.