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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18 April 2023 (4.00 - 6.15 pm)

Present:

COUNCILLORS

P Brown, C Smith, C Deakin, J Wilkes, P Robinson, K Rizvi, M Vance, B Brewer, B Jones, R Sweden

Also present:

Ian Buckmaster

28 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded members of the actions to be taken in case of an emergency.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (IF ANY) - RECEIVE.

Apologies were received from Councillors Brar, Lumsden and Chowdhury.

30 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

31 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 BHRUT AND NELFT TRUST UPDATE

The Committee received updates on the various trusts.

Members noted there had been no patients waiting more than 18 months and that some back door services had been put on hold due to the strikes.

Officers explained to members that there had been long wait time in A&E with specific concerns around mental health assessments and the number of free beds to manage day to day pressures better. Members were pleased to note that 68% of staff would recommend working for NELFT.

Members noted that an increase of agency staff had led to an overspend of £11.7million.

The Committee noted that 38 mental health patients had been waiting for more than 36 hours with communication to staff on who was waiting and what they were waiting for to get better with efforts to keep patients away from A&E where possible by going through other pathways which are more suited to their needs.

It was explained to members that during the strikes, roughly 4500 appointments had been cancelled in total with people re-booking having a knock-on effect to future availability.

The Committee noted the report.

33 BHRUT CQC INSPECTION

The BHRUT CQC inspection was presented to the Committee.

Members noted that the inspection took place at King George's Hospital and had been carried over from a suspended inspection after winter 2022. It was noted by the Committee that some services had been rated 'requires improvement' with the main concerns around wait times. Wait times had started to decrease. It was explained that the overall rating of 'requires improvement' was due to safety concerns with actions to be implemented to reduce pressures with confidence that those actions would improve the rating.

The Committee noted the report.

34 URGENT TREATMENT CENTRES

The Committee were presented with a report of Urgent Treatment Centres from PELC.

Members were displeased to note that all sites had been rated as 'inadequate'. Members noted that the time of arrival to all 4 sites had been monitored with a new ICA model developed to deliver to standard. It was also noted that the BHR system for urgent and emergency care programme board had been developed and a new medical director was in post. It was explained to the Committee members that team restructures had been implemented just prior to the CQC inspection and there had been a steady increase of performance across all 4 sites.

The Committee noted the report.

35 PRIMARY CARE ENHANCED ACCESS

The Committee were presented with a report with information in PC Enhanced Access.

Members noted that last summer there had been patient engagement with over 38,000 responses which findings shared with all PCNs. The Committee

experienced technological issues and could not hear the presenting officers so it was agreed that questions would be collated and passed back to them after the meeting.

The Committee noted the report.

Chairman

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