

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
PANEL

05 SEPTEMBER 2012

7.15pm-8.40pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Suzanne Evans (chair), Margaret Brierly, Brenda Fraser, Maurice Groves, Logie Lohendran, Peter McCabe, Dennis Pearce, Linda Taylor (substitutue) Greg Udeh.
Co-opted members: Myrtle Agutter, Laura Johnson, Sheila Knight, Saleem Sheikh

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Linda Kirby (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health) Miles Scott Chief Executive St Georges NHS Healthcare Trust, Trudi Kemp, Director of Strategic Development, Stella Akintan Scrutiny Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Chair declared that she is the Chair for Lipoedema UK, a charity that is supported by St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust and St George's University of London. Councillor Maurice Groves declared that he is a board member of Heritage to Health.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies of absence from Councillor Margaret Brierly and Barbara Price, co-opted member

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 4TH JULY

A panel member highlighted some grammatical errors in the minutes including the incorrect spelling of 'psychiatry' on page 4 and 'meet' instead of 'met' on page 5 following this the minutes were agreed

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A panel member highlighted that as a result of suggestions by this panel South West London and St Georges held a consultation event in Fair Green, Mitcham about their Foundation Trust Proposals.

5 GP FUNDING REVIEW

The Chair reported that this item will be deferred to the November meeting, the

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previous NHS officer who led this review has recently moved to a new post and his successor was not able to attend this evening

6 ST GEORGES HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST TEN YEAR CORPORATE STRATEGY

Miles Scott reported that the last four to five years had been very busy for St Georges, patients have benefitted from improved clinical standards in stroke, heart attack care, St Georges is one the top facilities in the country for the latter. The Trust is now an integrated care provider with community services provided to Wandsworth. Although they had a difficult financial past, all debt has now been paid.

Trudi Kemp, gave an overview of the main principles in the ten year corporate strategy.

A panel member asked how the values and principles in the corporate strategy will be translated to staff and how this will be monitored. Miles Scott reported that the principles are set out in plain English so staff at all levels in the organisation will have a clear understanding of what they mean. It will also be included in the induction process, on-going training, appraisals and the awards scheme. Trudi Kemp pointed out that staff themselves developed the values.

A panel member pointed out his concern over the recent events regarding the death of Kane Gorney due to dehydration at St Georges and subsequent findings of poor practice and neglect by hospital staff.

Miles Scott reported that this event has galvanised the whole organisation and people are not in denial about it. Patient surveys indicate that there has been progress. Maternity services were an issue a few years ago and enormous amount of work was done and clinical outcomes and patient experience have improved. Although it is accepted that technical and clinical care is improving faster than patient experience.

Miles Scott highlighted that he recognised that the Panel members are keen to see that the patient experience is highlighted in the survey.

Panel members asked if the corporate strategy would change if the St Georges received Foundation Trust status and what is their future relationship with St Helier hospital

Mile Scott reported that this corporate strategy is part of the Foundation Trust proposal, St Georges is committed to providing high quality health care across south west London. St Georges has an on-going partnership with St Helier that will continue, there are at least 35 consultants who work across both hospitals. In the future there could be more joint working. It is in the interest of St Georges that all health services in south west London are financial viable and of a high clinical standard. St Georges are working with Merton Clinical Commissioning Group to achieve this aim.

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Questions were asked about support for older people and transition of children to adult services, the high turnover of staff and use of agency staff and if there are enough administrative staff to cope with the workload particularly in out-patient services,

Miles Scott reported that older people are a priority in a number of ways including improving orthopaedics and dementia services. In transition services for children, the biggest issue will be facilities, St Georges are developing a new children's ward for children and teenagers. They are trying to reduce the use of agency staff this can be difficult in areas where it is difficult to recruit staff.

Trudi Kemp highlighted that St Georges have done more work with Wandsworth older residents due to having integrated community services. This means that they have one clinical lead and the ethos is on maintaining independence. The strategy recognises that they need to do more work in Merton and this is detailed in the corporate strategy document.

In response to panel questions St Georges reported that they are not making five hundred members of staff redundant, there are no redundancy programmes at the moment, Savings will be made through reducing use of agency staff.

In response to questions about using more healthcare workers rather than nurses it was reported that the NHS has to become more efficient and they are looking at the balance of staff on the wards.

A panel member pointed out that ten years is a long time to implement the corporate strategy, asking: who will be held accountable for it as most of the current senior staff are likely to have left St Georges by then?

Miles Scott reported that the ten year corporate strategy is for staff to aspire to, setting a direction of travel for the organisation. All future senior staff will continue to implement the strategy.

Many panel members thanked St Georges for the excellent personal care they had received while in hospital.

RESOLVED

The Panel would like to emphasise to St George's the importance of making patient experience as a clear feature within the corporate strategy.

7 Merton Link Annual Report

This item was deferred as Barbara Price Chair of Link Merton was unable to attend this meeting

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