

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2023 AT 6:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillor Rachel Taggart-Ryan(Chair), Councillor Majid Rahman, Councillor Christine St. Matthew-Daniel, Councillor Sammy Backon, Councillor Merrill, Councillor Hartley, and Councillor Sandra Bauer.

Officers:

Director of Health and Adult Services and Deputy Corporate Governance Manager.

Others in attendance:

Chief Operating Officer - Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Chief Nurse – Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust and Chief Executive - Healthwatch Greenwich

The Chair welcomed members and proceeded to the agenda items.

Item No.

1 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Merrill for lateness and Cllr Hartley for leaving early.

2 Urgent Business.

The Chair informed the Panel that the members list on the front sheet had an error and that Cllr Hills had been replaced by Cllr Hartley.

3 Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Backon – NHS member of staff

Resolved –

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school governing bodies be noted.

4 Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Update

The Panel received a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer.

Responding to a question about preventing shifts from going to agencies, the Chief Operating Officer stated that they are in a much better position with vacancy being below 10%. She added that they no longer send shifts to agencies.

Responding to a question about redundancy, the Chief Operating Officer stated that they have increased staffing and were not planning any redundancies. She revealed that they were expanding the workforce in clinical areas.

Responding to a question about savings and resources, the Chief Nurse stated that if a savings will affect the quality of service, it is not pursued.

Responding to a question about the £8m deficit, the Chief Operating Officer stated that the contribution of the strike to the deficit was about £1m a week. She clarified that the £8m deficit was the whole trust and not just the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Responding to a question about staff absence, the Chief Nurse told the Panel that they measure absence and that it is currently below 4%. She explained that absence was higher due to covid.

Responding to a question about the support given to those participating in strikes, the Chief Nurse stated that they hold many meeting with their staff and do not penalise those who strike.

Responding to a question about managing disruptions to cancer care, the Chief Operating Officer stated that they try to maintain cancer care access and prioritise rebooking cancer patients first.

Responding to a question about communicating disruptions to patients, the Chief Operating Officer stated that they have a communications plan as part of their strike response. She explained that they publish information on their website, work with primary care partners and contact patients to inform them whether their appointments have been cancelled.

In response to a question about the staff needed to man the expected extra beds, the Chief Nurse stated that recruitment has been successful therefore they are not worried about who will man the extra beds.

Responding to a question about the impact of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), the Chief Operating Officer stated that there were conversations around compensating staff however in the end, they decided not to. She added that she was not aware of an ongoing conversation about the extension of the zone.

The Panel

Requested -

To receive an analysis on the impact of the ULEZ on staff and provide data on deaths related to air quality.

Action: Chief Operating Officer/
Chief Nurse.

Responding to a question about recruitment and retention, the Chief Nurse stated that they have improved advertisements, job descriptions and their social media. In terms of support, the Chief Nurse stated that they hold regular one-to-ones and have in place good education and training programmes.

Responding to a question about recruiting locally, the Chief Nurse stated that the operations managers actively go into local colleges to talk to young people to share what jobs are available. She revealed that they undertook a huge local recruitment last year into nursing assistant posts and are now looking at proposals to support them to train to become registered nurses. She added

that they have a management training scheme, an administrative route, school leavers programme and a graduate scheme.

Responding to a question about the non-availability of face-to-face GP appointments and its impact on the emergency department, the Chief Operating Officer stated that their triage is done by the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) who collect the data. She revealed that their new UCC partner, GP Federation Greenwich Health, have taken an active interest in developing the service. She added that going forward they will have consistent data about who attends the emergency department.

The Panel

Requested -

To know what data is available in respect of patients who seek face-to-face appointments (what data is available and what can be recorded)?

Action: Chief Operating Officer/
Chief Nurse.

Responding to a question about improving road services, the Chief Operating Officer stated that it is an expensive thoroughfare which they are responsible for. She stated that they have committed some money to resurfacing the road.

The Panel

Requested -

To know whether the Trust has had any discussions with the Local Authority regarding the improvement of roads, and how long the discussions have been taking place for?

Action: Chief Operating Officer/
Chief Nurse.

Resolved -

That the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Update be noted.

5 **Work Programme Schedule 2023-2024**

The Panel noted the 2023/24 work programme.

Resolved -

That the Work Programme Schedule 2023-2024 be noted.

6 **Commissioning of Future Reports**

The Panel agreed on the work items that were scheduled to be presented to the meeting of the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel taking place on 12th October 2023.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

Chair