

## NOTES

### Health OSC Steering Group Friday 28 November 2014

Present:

- County Councillor Steve Holgate
- County Councillor Yousuf Motala
- County Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson
- County Councillor Margaret Brindle
- County Councillor Nikki Hennessey
- Councillor Carolyn Evans (West Lancs BC)

#### Notes of last meeting

Notes of the meeting on 11 November 2014 agreed as a correct record.

#### Breast Services at Southport Hospital

Present:

- Jackie Moran, Head of Quality, Contracting and Performance, West Lancs CCG
  - Damian Reid, Deputy CEO/Finance Director, Southport & Ormskirk Hospital Trust
  - Dr Paul Mansour, Deputy Medical Director, Southport & Ormskirk Hospital Trust
  - Jeanette Abraham, Assistant Director, Planned Care, Southport & Ormskirk Hospital Trust
- 
- SOHT had been planning to develop breast services further
  - Had experienced difficulties with recruitment to specialist positions. Of 2 existing Radiologists, 1 had been removed from their duties due to an investigation, the other was due to retire at the end of September.
  - Arrangements for a Locum to start at the beginning of August fell through – the hospital received no notice of this.
  - There is a national shortage of radiologists, and smaller hospitals can find it harder to attract staff anyway. In this case, for example, Southport does not have a plastics unit for reconstruction
  - This left SOHT with 1 month to resolve the problem. Other hospitals were contacted to see if they could support, but, whilst there were offers, none would offer an appropriate model.
  - At the end of August, SOHT concluded that a safe service could not be provided, and so the service was ended.
  - The CCG was notified on 28 August (although it had previously received a warning).
  - Messages were sent to the media, and all patients were contacted. It was confirmed that all patients currently under the care of SOHT would continue to be so (the specialist deferred retirement to honour this)

## **Appendix B**

- A hotline was opened up to existing patients staffed by trained nurses. Some concerned calls, but in general SOHT were able to provide reassurance, and no major complaints have been received.
- New arrangements have now been developed with neighbouring hospital trusts (Wigan, Warrington & Leigh, Aintree as well as Royal Liverpool) to provide a service. Communication has taken place with GPs to help patients understand the choices available.
- It was noted that the geographic nature of West Lancs meant that many patients already chose these other hospitals. In addition, these hospitals offered the full range of services, so could, for example, offer a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery on a same day basis.
- Remaining services have been improved at Southport, with previous patients offered an annual mammogram
- It was confirmed that all patients already in the system were being seen through the full process, and that there had been no detrimental effect on waiting lists.
- It was also recognised that this service did not impact in any way on the general screening programme, which is a Public Health function
- All parties involved felt that the resolution of the issues had been a very collaborative exercise with no long term negative outcomes, and at no extra cost to the CCG in the long term
- In terms of numbers, it was estimated that the Southport unit had been seeing 2,200 patients per year, 800-900 from West Lancs.
- It was felt that some public engagement work would be beneficial, through local media. The Steering group offered their support and advised that they would be willing to help with newspaper publicity etc.

The Steering Group considered other issues relating to SOHT and the West Lancs CCG. The West Lancs Health Centre was praised, and it was noted that the next project was to strengthen the other walk in centres. Although the precise impact couldn't be confirmed yet, it was the case that A&E admissions at Southport had not increased last year, in contrast to the national picture. It was also reported that SOHT had a new Chair, Sue Musson. In addition, the Trust had just had its Chief Inspector of hospitals Inspection, with the results due in mid-Feb. No immediate concerns were raised, and there was praise for the hospital's caring attitude and end of life care

### **Possible future topics**

- Medical Schools, training for Doctors and Nurses & links to the local NHS

### **Dates of future meetings**

- 19 December – Healthy Lifestyles team (LCFT) and Blackpool Hospital Trust re strategic plans
- 5 January – topic tbc
- 26 January – NHSE – Healthier Lancashire Programme.
- 23 February – ELCCG re Hyndburn Health Access Centre