

7 October 2014

Agenda Item: 5

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **INTOXICATED PATIENTS REVIEW – RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce the response from Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) to the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee's Scrutiny Review examining the impact of intoxicated patients on the Emergency Department at NUH.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. Members will recall that the Joint Health Committee previously undertook an evidence gathering review of the issues caused by intoxicated patients attending the Emergency Department at NUH by means of a study group. The study group heard from both Mr Alan Davis, the High Volume Service User (HVSU) nurse responsible for reducing prolific attendance at the Emergency Department, and Demas Esberger, the Clinical Director for Acute Medicine.
3. The study group made the following recommendations, and these were ratified by the committee for onward transmission to NUH on 10 June 2014:
  - 1) Funds should be identified to allow the High Volume Service User Nurse role to be continued permanently within NUH
  - 2) Robust Information on alcohol abuse and intoxication as a contributing factor in Emergency Department attendance should be captured
  - 3) The views of patients on how the behaviour of intoxicated patients has impacted upon them should be captured and used to inform the development of Emergency Department Services
4. Whilst ratifying the recommendations, the committee made a number of other points which were also communicated to NUH. These are as follows:
  - Concern was expressed about the 50 prolific High Volume Service Users, the cost and the distress that intoxicated patients cause to other patients.

- The Trust should start to keep a record of the patients admitted for a physical injury caused by being intoxicated.
  - The perception that intoxicated patients are only a problem on Friday and Saturday nights but this is a constant problem 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  - The possibility of looking in to the scheme that Derby City Council have started regarding intoxicated patients based on a scheme that Cardiff Council have implemented in conjunction with the police.
  - The Committee were pleased that the funding for the HVSU nurse post had been agreed for an additional year as the work done by Mr Davis proved that this role had helped reduce the HVSU's. It has not been confirmed yet that Mr Davis personally will continue in this role.
  - The Committee would like to know to what extent the HVSU specialist nurse works with other agencies as there is value in multi-agency working.
5. The committee agreed to invite NUH representatives to attend the Joint Health Committee in the autumn to present their response. The response from NUH is attached as an **appendix** to this report.
  6. Representatives from NUH will attend the committee to present the response and answer questions.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Receive the response to the recommendations
- 2) Schedule further consideration as necessary

**Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis**  
**Chairman of Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826**

### **Background Papers**

Nil

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All