

Report on the Meeting of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust on 29th July 2015

The Chief Executive reported that the work system was developing in accordance with the Secretary of State's strategy with additional consultants having been appointed. By now seven day service was being provided by the gastroenterology team. There were challenges ahead concerning the Estate, Staffing and Finance.

A presentation was given by Dr Matthew Burn with regard to the Stroke Services at High Wycombe. They were treating 550 patients a year including 100 from and were open on Christmas Day. Whilst Wexham Park has a small unit patients tend to make better progress if they are sent to a larger unit in the first place. A quarter of the patients deteriorate within the first 72 hours.

We also had received a presentation with regard to end of life care. We heard about a 61 year old patient who was suffering from Prostate Cancer which had spread to his lungs and his liver. It was shown that he was helped to make his own decisions concerning treatment. End of Life Care had expanded within the Trust with the Liverpool Care System having been abandoned 18 months earlier. The views of Patients and family were taken into account with a nursing care plan and a new practitioner for end of life had been appointed.

The Chief Inspector Of Hospitals Report was received. This followed on from inspections carried out during 2014 and the first half of 2015. It provided a base line assessment of the quality of the community services provided by the Trust. Overall these services were rated as "Requires Improvement" but there had been some improvement since the first inspection in March 2014. An action plan was being prepared.

In the Quality improvement report it was shown that there were too many patient falls and 7 occurred when there was inadequate staffing. It was felt that practitioners should speak out when there were inadequate staff available.

The Finance Officer advised that in June they had a 6 million surplus but they had overspent on the workforce. There was a risk that this could be reduced if some of the future activity is not properly funded.

The workforce Report showed that 87% of the staff had undergone statutory training against a target of 90% and 76% had undergone appraisals against a target of 90%. The sickness level was 3.1% in May and 3.2% in April.

David Pepler

17th September 2015