

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 31 October 2017



Subject: Barts Health NHS Trust - Scrutiny of External Organisations

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee undertake appropriate external scrutiny of Barts Health NHS Trust, with regard to the continued improvement of inpatient, outpatient and other medical and emergency services at Whipps Cross Hospital.

1. (Director of Governance) As the Committee will recall, representatives of Barts Health NHS Trust attended its meeting on 23 February 2016 to respond to the concerns of members in respect of aspects of general inpatient, outpatient and emergency services provision at Whipps Cross University Hospital. The minutes of that meeting of the Committee are available at:

<https://goo.gl/uZ1jnC>

2. Members have expressed a desire to undertake further external scrutiny of the progress of the Trust with regard to the achievement and delivery of its improvement plans for Whipps Cross Hospital. This has therefore been included in the work programme for the Committee for 2017/18 and the following representatives of the Trust will be in attendance at the meeting:

Dr. Heather Noble - Medical Director, Whipps Cross Hospital; and
Alan Gurney - Managing Director, Whipps Cross Hospital.

3. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a focused unannounced inspection of three core services (surgery, end of life care and outpatients and diagnostic imaging) at Whipps Cross Hospital in May 2017, as a follow-up to its previous inspection of Barts Health NHS Trust in July 2016. At that time, the Hospital was rated inadequate overall, although in considering the aggregated ratings across all eight core services from both the recent inspection and in 2016, the Hospital is now rated by the CQC as requiring improvement. A summary of the report of the CQC arising from its inspection earlier in the year is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The full report and detailed findings of the CQC is available on its website at:

http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/new_reports/AAAG6893.pdf

4. The identification of overarching scrutiny themes and specific issues relating to the services provided by the Trust at Whipps Cross Hospital were recently sought from members through the Council Bulletin. Any such matters raised by members have been notified to Barts Health NHS Trust as the emphasis for such external scrutiny, in order to ensure that maximum value is derived from this scrutiny activity.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibility. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

Representatives of Barts Health NHS Trust attended the meeting of the Committee held on 23 February 2016. The scrutiny of a number of overarching themes and specific issues of general inpatient, outpatient and emergency services provision at Whips Cross University Hospital were identified at that time.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:***Risk Management***

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.