Title: Referral to Treatment in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

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Accountable Divisional Director: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law & Governance
Accountable Director: Chris Naylor, Chief Executive

Summary:

On 26 April 2016 the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) received a report from the Joint Referral to Treatment Lead for the Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGS) and the Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge University Trust (BHRUT) regarding the Trust’s performance on waiting times for planned surgery and outpatient treatment for patients across the three boroughs. This is referred to as “referral to treatment” (RTT). The HWB expressed grave concerns at the scale of the issue, having noted that BHRUT revealed in its March 2016 Board papers that it had a large number of patients waiting more than 52 weeks on the elective RTT pathway. The Chair of the HWB, Councillor Maureen Worby, suggested that the Chair of Health and Adult Services Select Committee (HASSC) consider the issue of the RTT as part of its Work Programme for further investigation as a matter of priority.

- At Appendix 1 members will find the Trust’s March 2016 Issue Brief which provides summaries of the performance issues around RTT and the Trust’s plans to address them.
- At Appendix 2, the full report on RTT to the HWB on 26 April 2016 is provided.
- Provided at Appendix 3 are the minutes of the HWB’s discussions around the RTT report it received.
- At Appendix 4 is the presentation that will be delivered by the Trust to the HASSC on 9 June 2016.

Members are asked to also note that NHS Improvement started an investigation in July 2015 into the awarding of a contract to BHRUT to operate the North East London NHS Treatment Centre by the BHR and Waltham Forest CCGs. The Centre provides a range of health services, such as general surgery, orthopaedics and ophthalmology. The Council was notified on 26 May 2016 that the CCGs had given undertakings to NHS Improvement as part of the conclusion of the investigation to abandon the procurement and extend the contract to operate the Centre with the current provider, Care UK.

- At Appendix 5 members will find a briefing by NHS Improvement explaining its decision to accept the CCGs’ undertakings.
Recommendation(s)

The HASSC is recommended to:

(i) Receive the presentation from BHRUT which provides an update on the Trust’s RTT performance and its plans to address waiting times, and

(ii) Ask questions of Matthew Hopkins, the Trust’s Chief Executive, to help determine issues such as the extent to which Barking and Dagenham residents are affected, how this will be resolved, how the problems and plans to address them are being communicated to those affected, the predicted time-scale required to resolve the issues and, what is being put in place to ensure future performance of RTT, and monitoring of it, is robust.

Reason(s)

This report relates to the Council’s priority to enabling social responsibility and under it, the objectives to “protect the most vulnerable, keeping adults and children healthy and safe” and to “ensure everyone can access good quality healthcare when they need it”.

Financial Implications and Legal Implications

There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1  BHRUT’s March 2016 Issue Brief on RTT
Appendix 2  RTT report to HWB report on 26 April 2016
Appendix 3  26 April 2016 Draft HWB minutes of discussions around RTT report
Appendix 4  BHRUT’s presentation on RTT for HASSC on 9 June 2016
Appendix 5  NHS Improvement’s briefing on decision to accept undertakings from CCGs