World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day takes place every year and is an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health.

We are currently planning a number of events for World Mental Health Day on the 10th October. NELFT is leading on this with support from a number of partners, including Adults’ Care and Support, Drug and Alcohol Services, Public Health and a number of Mental Health teams. The theme of the campaign and events will be supporting people to look after their mental health.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England are promoting a campaign called “Take 10 Together for World Mental Health Day”. A stall will be in Barking Asda to engage the public as well as a planned stall in the Heathway Shopping Centre in Dagenham. Drug and alcohol services will be giving talks in the borough’s schools on substance misuse and the effects it can have on your mental health.

The NOUS Organisation, who work to create awareness about mental health issues in the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities will be also be hosting an event in Barking and Dagenham to mark World Mental Health Day.

As events are confirmed they will be publicised, so I urge Board members to promote these events closer to the day.

Learning Disability Week

In my previous report I highlighted the upcoming Learning Disability Week, which was held in Barking and Dagenham on Monday 18 July to Friday 22 July 2016. A number of events were held during the week, focussing on the personal growth and development of residents with learning disabilities and particularly focused on employment and resilience.

The feedback from those who attended events during the week was positive, with coverage in the Dagenham Post with an article with pictures from the sports day.

Thank you to all those who helped to organise the week and to all those who took part in it.
New A&E Delivery Boards

There has recently been a high level of national media coverage about issues facing the NHS, including challenges in hitting A&E waiting time targets. As part of this there were recently announced plans to strengthen financial performance and accountability with a particular focus on improving A&E waiting time performance. NHS England and NHS Improvement regional teams have worked together to identify systems requiring the most support based on their current and historic performance. These systems will be the subject of the most intensive support and attention, provided by an expanded ECIP (Emergency Care Improvement Programme).

Changes to system leadership and governance were identified, with System Resilience Groups (SRGs) transforming into Local A&E Delivery Boards. These will focus solely on Urgent and Emergency Care, and will be attended at the executive level by member organisations.

In addition, five mandated improvement initiatives have been identified, which relate to streaming, flow and discharge and represent actions that have already been adopted by the most successful systems. The five actions include:

- Streaming at the front door to ambulatory and primary care which will reduce waits and improve flow through emergency departments by allowing staff in the main department to focus on patients with more complex conditions.
- NHS 111 and increasing the number of calls transferred for clinical advice, which will decrease call transfers to ambulance services and reduce A&E attendances.
- Ambulance changes, which will help ensure that all those who contact the ambulance service receive an appropriate and timely clinician and transport response, with the aim to decrease conveyance and increase ‘hear and treat’ and ‘see and treat’ to divert patients away from A&E.
- Improved flow, with a set of must do’s to reduce inpatient bed occupancy and reduce length of stay.
- Mandating ‘Discharge to Assess’ and ‘trusted assessor’ type models.

News from NHS England

Funding to set up centres of global digital excellence

12 Trusts of the most digitally advanced trusts have been selected by NHS England to receive a £100m funding pot to become centres of global digital excellence and drive forward better use of technology in health.

In a bid to win up to £10m each to invest in digital infrastructure and specialist training, 26 acute trusts, already advanced in their use of technology in hospitals, were asked to demonstrate their potential to become world leaders in health informatics. 12 trusts were selected to become centres of global digital excellence.

Once established, the centres will lead the way for the entire system to move faster in getting better information technology on the ground, delivering benefits
News from NHS England cont…

for patients and sharing learning and resources with other local organisations through networks.

To be selected, trusts showed that they are able to deliver:

- Comprehensive use of electronic patient records – making patient records available to doctors and nurses in real time and use of electronic medicines management.
- Information sharing across the local health and care system – digital correspondence and test results for patients and online medical record and care plan sharing between health and care teams.
- Robust data security – a plan to respond to threats to data security

Of the 12 Trusts selected, one was from London, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS learning from Pokemon Go

A recent blog by the Senior Fellow to the Chief Executive of NHS England, Dr Mahiben Maruthappu, looked at what lessons the health system could learn from Pokemon Go, the game that encourages people to go out and finding virtual Pokemon in the real world using their smartphones.

The game uses the players’ smartphones, as well as the surrounding environment, to create the game and has been successful in part because it uses technology that people have on them at all times and are comfortable with. The majority of the population owns a smartphone, but while they have access to NHS services online, single digit percentages of the population use smartphones to interact with the health service.

Dr Maruthappu highlights that if medical records aren’t built to run off patient’s smartphones, then they will need to be retrofitted in the future so they are able to be easily viewed on smartphones.

Pokémon Go blends offline with online, real with virtual by using augmented reality. Augmented reality is being used at the Royal London, where colorectal surgeon Shafi Ahmed has pioneered the use of Google Glass in surgery to teach students and trainees. In the Netherlands AED4U is an App that shows you the location of nearby defibrillators using your phone.

Pokemon Go represents a gamification of people’s lives, an approach that could be explored more when it come to people’s health, especially around self-care, and A&E avoidance.

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting Dates

Tuesday 22 November 2016, Tuesday 31 January 2017, Tuesday 14 March 2017, Tuesday 9 May 2017

All meetings start at 6pm and are held in the conference room of the Barking Learning Centre.