

**HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**ITEM 3 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

**Oral Questions to the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
received from Councillor Ian Dunn**

- 1. Why is there no update from Kings on this agenda as there was on the agenda of the postponed meeting on 29 Jan? Can Kings please provide a representative to provide the sub-committee with an update?**

**Reply:**

*I share the disappointment that Kings are not at the meeting. Both the Portfolio Holder and I have made our views clear to Kings at the highest level. However there are mitigating circumstances.*

*Firstly King's had agreed to attend Health Scrutiny Sub Committee originally scheduled to take place in January 2019. It was necessary to postpone, at relatively short notice, the January meeting to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to accommodate a Special Executive and Council. In response to the reschedule Kings advised on 4<sup>th</sup> February that it would not be possible to send a representative on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This was accepted as the change of date had been instigated by the Council, and therefore out of King's control.*

*Secondly you will be aware that there have been management changes at the highest level in Kings with a new Chairman, Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer plus, recently, a new acting MD at the PRUH. Not all of these new people have yet started.*

*We have advised Kings of all the dates for the next Council year and I'm confident they will do their best to attend.*

*Fiona Wheeler, the new Acting Executive Managing Director of the PRUH, has met with the Adult Care Portfolio Holder and agreed that regular attendance from Kings to the Health Scrutiny Sub committee should be a priority and has committed to attending future meetings.*

## HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Written Questions to the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee received from Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group

**1. Scrutiny of plans for maintaining uninterrupted provision of medical supplies from E.U. countries, including essential medication, in the event of a 'No Deal Brexit':**

- a) Patients with life-threatening conditions rely on continuous supplies of drugs, eg Insulin and anti-coagulants, and medical supplies. What action has the Subcommittee taken to scrutinise plans by the Government and relevant bodies to ensure these supplies are maintained?**

**Reply:**

*Items for inclusion on the agenda for the Health Scrutiny Subcommittee are requested and set at the discretion of the Chairman of the Adult Care and Health PDS in conjunction with advice from Council Officers. To date Senior Officers at the Council have not raised any concerns.*

*The attached information however has been provided by the CCG.*

**b) What information has been made available to patients?**

**Reply:**

*Please see attached response from the CCG.*

**2. Minute Item C, Orpington Hospital Update (Kings) 17 October 2018 Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee:**

- a) What action is taken to provide care in "settings appropriate to their needs" of "stranded" and "super stranded" patients (including those with no fixed abode, and with no recourse to public funds)?**
- b) Who has a responsibility of care, and how are they funded?**

**Reply:**

*Please see attached response provided by the CCG and Bromley Council.*

**1. Scrutiny of plans for maintaining uninterrupted provision of medical supplies from E.U. countries, including essential medication, in the event of a 'No Deal Brexit':**

- a) Patients with life-threatening conditions rely on continuous supplies of drugs, eg Insulin and anti-coagulants, and medical supplies. What action has the Subcommittee taken to scrutinise plans by the Government and relevant bodies to ensure these supplies are maintained?**

**1(a).**

The government is working with pharmaceutical companies, suppliers, and the NHS to make sure patients continue to receive the medication they need if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

The government has analysed the supply chain, made plans to reduce the risk of disruption, and given instructions to pharmaceutical companies to ensure that they have adequate stocks to cope with any potential delays at the border

We are working together across the NHS in South East London, to make the necessary plans and taking the precautions required to prevent any adverse impact on prescribed medication and other key areas. Risk assessments have been undertaken by commissioners and providers on the seven key areas identified in the national guidance.

Bromley CCG has set up a CCG EU Exit group through our senior management team which meets bi-monthly and feeds into the South East London STP (Sustainability and Transformation Partnership) EU Exit oversight group which meets monthly in preparation for a no deal EU Exit.

Our advice and indeed the national advice, is for patients not to stockpile but to ensure you get prescriptions to your pharmacist in good time.

**b) What information has been made available to patients?**

**1(b).**

NHS England is working closely with the Department for Health and Social Care, patient groups and others to provide relevant information to patients and the public. For the moment all public communication is led at national level and the CCG is promoting national messages through our providers. The CCG will provide a link to the national messages from its website.

Further information can also be found on the Government website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-for-a-possible-no-deal-eu-exit-information-for-the-health-and-care-sector>

**2. Minute Item C, Orpington Hospital Update (Kings) 17 October 2018 Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee:**

- a) What action is taken to provide care in “settings appropriate to their needs” of “stranded” and “super stranded” patients (including those with no fixed abode, and with no recourse to public funds)?**

**2(a).**

King’s College Hospital, PRUH site, along with local partners, have initiated weekly Long Length of Stay Patient Reviews for those patients who have become ‘stranded’ or ‘super stranded’. A team of Senior Clinicians, Managers, Discharge Coordinators, Social Workers and Community providers, go directly to the wards to discuss each patient with a stay longer than 21 days. The team discusses the patient with relevant clinicians and helps the ward multidisciplinary teams tackle obstacles that are delaying the treatment and discharge of patients.

If a person who attends the hospital has no fixed abode and needs an element of care and support, the person will be referred to social services in the hospital. A member of the social care management team will meet with the person to obtain further information and agree a discharge plan and what further support may be needed. After this information has been obtained, contact is made with the London Borough of Bromley’s Housing team, even where the individual may have no recourse to public funds or may not be eligible or in priority need for housing assistance. In such cases, London Borough of Bromley has a role in providing information and advice about homelessness prevention and alternative support options.

- b) Who has a responsibility of care, and how are they funded?**

**2(b).**

The responsibility of care lies with the hospital trusts, emergency departments and urgent treatment centres to refer people with no fixed abode to the local authority. Any care and support required would be funded by the local authority. If the person has no recourse to public funds, Bromley Council has a role to provide assistance as mentioned above.