

St. Albans and Harpenden Patient Group

WE ARE A GROUP OF PATIENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. WE ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE NHS. WE REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA ON ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES. WE ALERT PEOPLE TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, e.g. THE FUTURE OF ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL AND SECURITY OF CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL RECORDS.

WE PUT THE PATIENT'S POINT OF VIEW.

WE TAKE PART IN PATIENT-LED INSPECTIONS, e.g. AT ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL ONE OF OUR MEMBERS SITS ON THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP ONE ATTENDS MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' COMMITTEE THREE ARE MEMBERS OF THE HERTS VALLEYS C.C.G's PATIENT COMMITTEE SEVERAL WORK WITH THE STRATEGIC REVIEW "YOUR CARE, YOUR FUTURE"

WE EXPLAIN LOCAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS.

WHAT is the C.C.G? The Clinical Commissioning Group runs the provision of non-hospital health care in our area, mainly through GP's. When a GP sends a patient to a hospital the C.C.G transfers money to the hospital to cover the cost of treatment. **WHAT** is the Strategic Review? It is consulting patients and public on the future provision of health and social care in West Herts. It wants the views of as many individuals and groups as possible. Contact it on info@yourcareyourfuture.org.uk

WE HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS.

7.00-9.00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May in Committee Room 1 in the Council Offices, Civic Centre, St. Albans.

WE ISSUE A NEWSLETTER.

Our September Newsletter highlighted the Care Quality Commission's report into the West Herts Hospitals Trust (WHHT) and its three hospitals. Did you know that the Care Quality Commission recently judged St. Albans City Hospital (SACH) "Unsatisfactory" and put it into "Special Measures"? The Newsletter also dealt with the Strategic Review, which could determine the future of SACH and the Memorial Hospital (Red House) at Harpenden.

WE ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION AND WORK OF PPG's and a PPG NETWORK.

The NHS stipulates that every GP Practice should have a Patient Participation Group. To find out more contact heather.aylward@hertsvalleysccg.nhs.uk

WE SUPPORT HEALTHWATCH HERTFORDSHIRE (HWH).

It is the official patients' advocate. It scrutinises the provision of health and social care in Herts. To complain about health or social care in the county, talk to HWH
... 01707275978
... info@healthwatchhertfordshire.co.uk

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

TO JOIN SAPG PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIR johnwigley33@btinternet.com

GENDER MATTERS IN THE LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM

GENDER EQUALITY

In April 2015 eleven (65%) members of the HVCCG's governing body were men, 4 (37%) were women. Eight (15%) senior managers were men, 44 (85%) were women.

GYNAECOLOGY SERVICES REVIEW

In June 2015 the C.C.G. surveyed users of local gynaecology services to see what they thought about their experience with GP's, hospitals, etc. It is using the information to help design a better service. You can contact the C.C.G. by phone on 01442898888 or via enquiries.hvccg@nhs.net

THE STRATEGIC REVIEW HAS FOUND THAT...

In 2013 7,600 mothers gave birth in West Herts.

The conception rate per 1000 15-17 year olds in West Herts was 21.3%- lower than the regional average of 30.8%, although Watford with 26.2% is closer to the regional average.

11% of expectant mothers in West Herts smoke during pregnancy.

WATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL (WGH)'s MATERNITY UNIT.

The Strategic Review noted that WGH's Maternity Unit was not staffed to Royal College of Gynaecology standards, that access to ultrasound and interventional radiology was not available 24/7 and that paediatricians / neonatologists were not available 12/7.

A recent Care Quality Commission report judged WGH to be "inadequate" and put it into "special measures". Part of WGH's response was to close its private obstetric service and appoint a new Acting Head of Midwifery and a new Medical Director for Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The full report is available on the CQC's website www.cqc.org.uk

NEW INITIATIVES

The Review's work has led to the creation of a Children, Maternity and Young People Programme and a Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) for West Herts, both intended to coordinate services offered to those groups. Herts Community NHS Trust runs the FNP. It provides home nursing for young mothers from pregnancy until their child is two years old. Find out more by phoning the Trust (01707388000) or accessing its web-site or using this link

http://www.hertschs.nhs.uk/services/children/Family_Nurse_Partnership/

WOMEN AND ALCOHOL.

Figures from Public Health England (www.healthprofiles.info) show that alcohol-related deaths for women in St. Albans is 24.3 per 100,000 per year, but the national figure is 14.8, and alcohol-related hospital admissions is 274, whilst the national figure is 190. The Council's Health and Wellbeing Partnership has a working group (4 women and one man) to promote alcohol awareness.

Further information from Naureen.Ali@stalbans.gov.uk or jc4@sadc@jessicachivers.com

See "Alcohol and Women" published by drinkaware.co.uk

YOUNG WOMEN AND MENTAL HEALTH.

National figures show that women are more likely to have been treated for a mental health problem than men, but that men are 3x more likely to commit suicide. The District Council is committed to improving mental health services available to young people in the district and its Health and Wellbeing Partnership is working with several groups, including the St. Albans Youth Council (SAYC), on a Young Person's Mental Health Project, for which it is to provide funding of at least £20,000. It will investigate problems particularly relevant to teens and early 20's such as low self-esteem and self-harm. Further information is available from Naureen or Jessica, as above.