

## Chairs Report to The Forest Health Forum 01/12/15

Various meetings have been attended within the local NHS system.

A meeting with a senior commissioning manager confirmed that unwell patients attending the minor illness and injury units, out of hours, can be handed on to the Out of Hours doctor service, by the nurse practitioner, if deemed appropriate, in the circumstances.

Comprehensive, whole system plans, are now in place to manage demands this winter. Management success will depend upon capacity, staff and resources as well as bed availability and pro-active co-operation and collaboration across the health and care economies. Patient flow timings are important to ease pressures across the system, both for admissions and discharges. Efforts are being made to address related issues.

There is an increasing demand for ambulance services and Emergency Care Assistants are being trained to become paramedics(16 are earmarked for Gloucestershire) . Ambulance handover times are improving and there are fewer diversions from 111 to the ambulance service, as the developing relationship between the two providers, is enhancing patient outcomes.

Integrated planning by the commissioners and the hospitals trust is promoting accelerated pathways for cancer patients.

The role out of the Electronic Patient Care Record is still some way off and is dependent upon the ambulance dispatch system being changed.

At a meeting of the Forest Locality reference group there was a presentation by Rod Brown of Gloucestershire Care Services, on the range of current community services in the Forest.

Representatives that the integrated and rapid response teams were working well and that a role for social services was incorporated in them.

It was pointed out that the Forest was losing out in voluntary funding grants as services provided were locally based and not countywide ( the criteria) for GCC funding. It was felt that this was discriminatory and should be addressed. Age Concern 'Meals on Wheels' was offered as an example.

Albert Weager Chair 01/12/15