



Camden Carers Voice and St Pancras Hospital feedback and listening session for Learning Disability and Mental Health Carers.

**Minutes – 5th November, 3pm-4pm
Via Zoom**

Attendance: (Steering Group) Kate (vice chair), Jessica, Galatea. 9 Carers. Allegra Lynch, Angela Edwards, Mollie Delaney (Camden Carers), Cllr Larriane Revah, Debra Holt, Rachel Bond

Apologies:

Speakers: Andrew Reece - Head of integrated Learning Disability Service, Angela Hassiotis - Professor of Psychiatry and Peter Cartlidge - Head of services for ageing Mental Health

- Kate introduces herself and the speakers and explains what the discussion is about.

Update from Angela Hassiotis:

- Angela showed a presentation which highlights the changes that have been made at St Pancras Hospital and why these changes have been made.

Update from Andrew Reece:

- It is safer for there to be a Ward consultant as the psychiatrists, Angela Hassiotis and Dr O’Kane weren’t always present on the ward.
- Andrew showed a graph which highlights that over the past few years, there has been less admission of people with learning disabilities to the Dunkley Ward in St Pancras Hospital. This is because other support and treatment is available which means they don’t have to go to hospital.

Q&A from Carers:

- **Q** – Do staff stay in their roles for long?
- **A** – The majority have been around for a long time.
- **Kate** – As you’re training staff, it would be best if they stayed for a while.
- **Andrew** – Learning Disability and Autism training has become mandatory for NHS staff.
- **Q** – The allocations of beds have remained the same, however the admissions into hospital have decreased. Why is this?

- **A** – The reduction is a good thing, sometimes patients stay for a long time which makes it harder for them to leave. It has also decreased as less people are getting admitted to hospital and instead are receiving community support.
- **Q** - It's not clear who is in charge, who is in charge of patients with multidisciplinary needs? What role does GP practices play?
- **A** – Sometimes communication falls flat which makes this unclear. At CLDS, there is a named worker model which clearly shows the roles of each staff member so you know who to speak to.
- **Q** – I'd like to know who has stepped in and what community support is available? How do we ensure that people with learning disabilities get community support, instead of being admitted to hospital?
- **A** – CLDS work closely with people who are at risk of being admitted. For example, we have meetings at CLDS with psychiatrists and other professionals to discuss how we can support the individual.
- **Q** – It's a shame that there is no longer a psychiatrist on the ward who has experience and is trained specifically on people with learning disabilities. There used to be four designated beds, what's stopping St Pancras from having two beds for people with learning disabilities? People with learning disabilities and autism usually rely on the same environment and room. Although, all NHS staff are receiving training on learning disabilities, this doesn't mean they are going to take the time to read or act on it.
- **A** – It's quite unfortunate that the change happened during the pandemic. We will continue to offer training, this has been quite personal rather than just an email.
- **Carer** – It'd be useful to have a booklet which helps support Carer's, in terms of hospital admissions.
- **Carer** – Mencap have introduced the Treat Me Well Campaign. There should be a Carer's discussion before any campaign or training goes ahead. We need a timeline and dialogue from Carer's point of view.

Update from Peter Cartlidge:

- We're currently providing training online for staff. It's important that staff discuss unpaid Carers, Peter will speak to Learning and Development Team about the discussion.

Carer – There was no consultation for the changes made at St Pancras Hospital. It'd be useful for Carers to receive updates on what's working well and what's not.

Any Other Business:

- **Angela Edwards** – There will be a Carers Partnership Meeting for Islington and Camden Carers. Carers to contact Angela for more information.

- **Date of next meeting** – CCV Celebration on 4th December.