

Report by Michael Hanley

1. Bed Reconfiguration at (mainly) Furness General Hospital (FGH), Barrow.

Helen (H, Uni Hosp Morcambe Bay Trust): Discussed bed changes. 15 overnight beds in Ward 1 (FGH) closed. Increase of 5 beds in Ward 5. Ward 4 changed from surgical to medical and beds increased from 24 to 34. Abbey View has step-down beds, decided to close these and change this into a rehab facility. There has been no reported adverse impact related to the bed reconfiguration.

D Jones (DJ, Chair, LD): Asked about feedback from patients and staff.

Sarah Maguire (SM, UHMBT): We have met staff. The changes have been difficult for staff.

H Irving (HI, C): Discussed the case of a relative who went into hospital (A/E Dept) and there were no beds. There were beds everywhere in A/E.

SM: We had a very challenging weekend last week.

H: We are in a transition phase.

D Edwards (DE, C): Asked about the survey of patients.

SM: We are looking at the usual feedback.

2. Local Enhanced Services (LES) in Lancashire and South Cumbria

Amy (Associate Director of Primary Care ): LESes are additional services provided by GPs. They are services that might have been provided previously by the hospital.

There has been an increase of funding for the LES from £2.9 to £9.8 million. LESes have increased from 13 to 18. Having blood tests (post hospital discharge) and LESes focusing on longterm conditions (diabetes, high blood pressure etc) are examples.

M Hanley (MH, L): Asked about the discontinuation of the minor surgery LES (this LES funds GPs to

suture lacerations and deal with other injuries). As a former GP in an isolated rural GP practice (Alston), it was important to be suture (stitch) suitable wounds, otherwise the patient had a 30 mile journey to CIC in Carlisle. It is important to retain this LES for isolated rural practices. Also asked about the dispute about GPs doing the post discharge blood tests.

Amy: We are reviewing isolated rural practices where there is a long journey to the nearest A/E. As for the dispute about blood tests following a patient admission, this is being resolved.

J Scattergood (Lancs and S Cumbria ICB): The Conniston GP Practice is affected by the Minor Injuries LES. We are also looking for a GP to run the practice.