

## OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

### Funding Crisis

Sorry folks but things are getting really serious now. The St.Helens CCG is £12.5 million overspent and we are at risk of being placed in 'special measures' by NHS England. We understand this means they send in the accountants who decide what services are to be stopped.

The main area we have to address due to excessive cost is 'unplanned care'. This includes patients turning up in accident and emergency inappropriately and then sometimes being admitted for a short time around the 4 hour mark so the hospital is not financially penalised for exceeding the four hour wait target. One way to cut costs immediately would be to scrap the four hour wait but this would have to come from the politicians – enough said.

The NHS/primary care needs your help as never before. As with any big organisation, there is considerable waste and we need to target what is preventable. How can you help?

1. Keep any hospital appointment that you have or cancel it – it costs more to re-refer you
2. Only ask for a referral if you know you will go through with the suggested plan of action (for example, do not agree to a referral for joint replacement then get to the hospital and report that your arthritis is 'not too bad'.
3. Please wait in hospital pharmacy for your medication and not ask for this to be changed to a GP script – this then comes off the practice budget instead of the hospital one.
4. Do not turn up in accident and emergency unless you are an 'A' or 'E'. The clue is in the name. If you do turn up, do not give your name and then leave before being seen (we are charged).
5. If you have a GP problem, make every effort to be seen within hours.
6. Do not rely on the emergency GP service (Rota) out of hours because you have run out of medication or simply not collected your script in time. This stretches the service further.
7. Do not waste resources through excess alcohol or drug use necessitating emergency care.
8. Use 'Care at the Chemist', the Walk-in-Centre and NHS Choices website appropriately.
9. Only order the medication you need and don't leave it on holiday.
10. Please buy items that are available 'over the counter' if you can afford to do so rather than request a script.
11. Take responsibility for your teeth and do not attend the GP with dental problems.
12. Only register as a temporary resident for genuine emergency treatment and not because you can't be bothered to see your usual GP – parents please note this for children coming home at Christmas and Easter. We receive NO FUNDING for temporary residents and this has an impact on registered patients. We should not be issuing repeat medication to temporary residents.
13. Take responsibility for your own health.

If is very unlikely that we will be able to address this massive deficit but we need to show NHS England we are doing all we can. We depend on you.

### Locums

In October we have welcomed two new locum doctors to the practice, Dr Heather Rosser and Dr Jon White. They have filled in at very short notice and we are very grateful to them both.