

# PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH



## FRIENDS OF DAVENPORT HOUSE

BULLETIN NO 3—MAY 2019

### Developments at Luton and Dunstable Hospital - Report by Chair Richard Munton



LUTON &  
DUNSTABLE  
UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE, QUALITY & SAFETY

At the first of our talks for 2019, **Simon Linnell**, Chair of the L&D Hospital Board, and **Liz Lees**, Chief Nurse, gave interesting accounts of different aspects of the work of our nearest acute hospital, a key NHS resource for Harpenden area residents.



Simon explained that the hospital trust is responsible to the public and not the NHS or government and encouraged local residents to forward their views on the hospital's performance. The majority of the Board's governors (22 out of 30) were public governors and were there to represent patients' views. Many Davenport House patients are friends of the Hospital Trust and **Malcolm Rainbow** is currently a public governor.

Simon pointed out that the hospital is regularly, and unusually, in financial surplus with 3% of revenue being reinvested annually in improvements. The hospital regularly meets key NHS targets, such as waiting times in A&E and in cancer services, and these standards will not be diluted by the expected merger with Bedford Hospital.

Liz noted that the last Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in August 2018 awarded the hospital a 'good' rating with several areas, such as

children's services and treatment of vulnerable adults, being rated 'outstanding'. Both speakers acknowledged that further improvements could and would be made, notably individual and end of life palliative care, and in mental health and patient discharge, despite resourcing difficulties.

There was a shortage of nurses and specialist staff nationally and especially so in areas of high employment in south-east England.

Both speakers answered a wide range of questions from the audience. I am very grateful to Malcolm Rainbow for setting up this meeting on behalf of the PPG. Our next meeting will be on Monday 8 July, in the small Public Hall, and will be given by Doreen Barker, an ambassador for the Rennie Grove Hospice. The meeting is free and open to all and a collection on behalf of Rennie Grove will be taken at the end of the meeting.

### L&D celebrates its 80th birthday!



### The official opening of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital by Queen Mary on 14th February 1939

The hospital is a cherished part of the local community and we were delighted to see so many staff, patients and supporters getting involved with the celebrations on Thursday 14th February... see pages 12-14 for more details

1939



2019



Why not become a member of the L&D Foundation Trust which is free and helps keep Harpenden at the forefront of developments at the Hospital?

### Latest News from Malcolm Rainbow

Work has started on making improvements to outpatients Zone B. The two new modular theatres have been lifted into place and now need to be connected ready for use by September 2019.



### **The Harpenden Child Contact Centre (HCCC)**

is a voluntary organisation based at but independent of All Saints' Church in Station Road, Batford, Harpenden. Its Chairman is Brigid Brennan, a longstanding patient of Davenport House. One of her aims is to widen local knowledge of the Centre's existence and the importance of the work it does, both so that families who may need its help will know about it and also in case anyone interested in becoming a volunteer or trustee.

HCCC has been running now for some 12 years. A Child Contact Centre is a safe, friendly and neutral place where children from separated families can spend time with one or both parents and sometimes other family members.

It is a child-centred environment that puts the needs of the children first and enables children who might not otherwise see their parent the opportunity to spend time together in a safe and happy environment.

All too often when relationships break down, the children can get caught up in the middle and for many reasons contact between the children and the parent with whom the children no longer live, stops or reduces. The Centre provides a service for those families where it is agreed there should be face to face contact but where, at least to start with, it cannot be in the community and reassurance is needed for the resident parent to know that his or her child will be safe.

HCCC is run by two co-ordinators, staffed by volunteers and run by a small management committee of Trustees which meets 4 times a year. **It is entirely free for the users and relies on donations and grants, always much appreciated, to meet its running costs.** It is a registered Charity and also an accredited member of a national organisation, NACCC, on whose recommendations its policies are based.

The Centre opens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. There are 4 teams of volunteers who attend the sessions on a rota basis and thus about six times a year. They set up the Hall with toys, games etc., of which the Centre has a good supply, and then support (not supervise) the contact. Many

parents are allowed to leave the Centre for all or part of the session; others stay there for the whole time. Afterwards the volunteers tidy up and de-brief. Being a volunteer is very worthwhile: to help children see their parents is hugely rewarding.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Centre, becoming a volunteer or a trustee, and/or making a donation then do please visit the website, [www.harpendenchildcontactcentre.org.uk](http://www.harpendenchildcontactcentre.org.uk); or contact one of the Co-ordinators, Stephen Pam or Ken Brennan on 07842 167767, email [harpendenccc@gmail.com](mailto:harpendenccc@gmail.com), or the Chairman, Brigid Brennan, 07881 785299, email [brigid.brennan@virginmedia.com](mailto:brigid.brennan@virginmedia.com). If you hear of a family that might need its help, please do tell them about the Centre.

### **NEXT OPEN MEETING—MONDAY 8 JULY**



This open meeting will be held in the small Public Hall during which we shall hear about Rennie Grove Hospice Care. There is some parking at the rear of the Public Halls and the doors will open from 7.30 pm with presentations starting at 8.00 pm.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

Friends are invited to contribute to the bulletin with factual information which would be helpful to others.

Please email the editor, John Harris,  
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*Friends of Davenport House cannot be responsible for the accuracy of information in this bulletin which is published in good faith.*