

Questions to the London North West University Healthcare Trust – for the Board Meeting 25.3.20

Sent by email.

To: The Board Meeting 25.3.20

We have some questions in relation to how the Trust is dealing with the Covid-19 crisis which we have also sent to the Chair following our recent conference call.

I'm sure you all know that everyone including ourselves is in awe of the dedication and bravery of all the hospital staff facing this pandemic, especially with limited resources.

ESON are being asked questions ourselves as although there is a lot of general advice to the public on staying safe and dealing with Covid19, there is less local advice and information.

A question that comes up regularly is what protocols are being followed in relation to testing staff for Covid-19? And providing protective clothing? Anecdotes abound.

We understand that Northwick Park is a major centre for dealing with Covid-19. What does this mean in practice and how is it affecting the 'normal' functioning of NPH?

What role is Ealing Hospital playing in relation to Covid-19 treatment? Is it to be a C19 hospital only or a mix? If the former, should other walk-in urgent cases go elsewhere?

Can people still go to the Urgent Care Centre, if not where can they take children be seen?

There are rumours that Ealing theatres are to be turned in to ICU beds. If so, does this mean there would be no surgery at all? If this were to be the case and patients needing urgent surgery had to be transferred to NPH or elsewhere we worry the current ambulance waiting times could make this impractical.

In relation to migrants, there are many people with concerns about their residency status and for several years Home Office policy (as illustrated by Windrush) has not always been clear, leading some people to avoid officialdom where possible. The introduction of NHS charging and eligibility checks created further worries. The last thing we want is that anyone who might be infected with Covid 19 would be slow to get help.

Although we have seen the national statements that treatment for Covid-19 will be free to all, can there be a guarantee that migrants' records won't be made available to the Home Office at a later date? If so, we can help in publicise this among local communities. No one should hesitate before coming forward over the next few weeks.

Regards,

Eve Turner
Secretary, Ealing Save Our NHS