The state of the NHS in London

NHS England are currently consulting on healthcare in London with “London, a Call to Action.” The following are facts and figures are taken from it.

Demographics

The population is over 8.2 million people and is growing faster than any other region in England, with increased births (an additional 7,000 a year since 2008) reduced mortality and a continuing trend of net domestic and international migration into the area.

More than 2 million are under 18. Average age is 37. Over 65s will increase by 19% by 2020.

People in the top 10% of households earn around 5.5% more than the bottom 10%.

The average life expectancy of Londoners has risen by 5.2 years since 1990. Men 79.3 years, and women 83.6 years - significantly better than the England average.

Life expectancy varies by 17 years within the City of Westminster.

In Tower Hamlets, women have a healthy life expectancy of 54.1 years, compared to 72.1 years for women in Richmond-upon-Thames.

Our health

Half a million Londoners alive today will die of a smoking related cause.

Every year 13,600 Londoners die from cancer. New cases are predicted to rise from 27,000 to 28,500 p.a. by 2020.

More than 40% of Londoners are predicted to be obese by 2035

One in five children in early adolescence is at risk of obesity. Just over 6% of 5-6 year olds in Richmond-upon-Thames are obese, compared to over 14% in deprived boroughs.

The number of people with a long-term conditions is estimated at 1.5 million.

Between 2007 and 2011 the estimated number of people with dementia rose from 65,000 to nearly 80,000.

The ten boroughs with the highest rates of acute sexually transmitted infections are all in London. More than 50% of the people in the UK with HIV live in London.

Tuberculosis rates are amongst the highest in Western Europe.

Mental health

More than 1.5 million Londoners suffer from mental ill-health which costs London £5.5 billion a year in working days, and £2.5 billion a year in health and social care costs.

A person with a severe and enduring mental health problem has a life expectancy of up to 25 years less than the national average.

Roughly half of all cases of mental illness begin by the age of 14.

The frontline

An estimated 90% of all NHS patient contacts take place within primary and community care delivered by GPs, pharmacists, dentists and other health and care professionals.

Approximately 30% of the primary care estate in London will not be fit for purpose in 10 years time.

There are 1520 GP practices, with an average of 5,948 patients. 82% of patients rate their practice as good or very good. London has more single-handed practices than anywhere else, varying from 5% to 40% across CCGs.

Almost 16% of London GPs are over 60.

Patient turnover in many areas is 30%.

Hospital services

The average catchment population of London’s acute hospitals is around 265,000 – compared with 370,000 in the East Midlands.

Consolidation of complex cardiovascular services has improved outcomes for patients. The highest hospital mortality rate in London has fallen from 8.5% in 2008 to just 3.7% in 2012.

No Londoner is more than 30 minutes by ambulance from a hyper acute stroke unit.

Patients with the most life threatening injuries are now treated at one of four hospitals in London.

Nationally in the past 10 years there has been a 35% increase in emergency admissions and a 65% increase in hospital episodes for those over 75 years of age.

25% of patients who do not need specialist care are admitted to hospital.

Up to 25% of urgent admissions could be avoided with proactive management of their conditions.

70% of people would prefer to die at home. Only about 35% do.

Finance

….we will need to save an estimated £4 billion between 2015 and 2020. 8% p.a. - £0.8 billion of an annual £10.1 billion.