

**LAS Mental Health Committee 6th December 2016**

**Report by Kathy West, Patients’ Forum Executive Committee**

Chair:  Briony Sloper. Only 6 people were present, including me.  I was rather surprised as at the previous meeting the minutes recorded 18 people in attendance.  In retrospect this may partly because of imminent changes at LAS, including Fiona Moore's retirement announcement.  Six people were enough for a quorum so the meeting proceeded.

This was my first meeting and as yet am nowhere up to speed, but this is a key interest of mine and links with most of my past experience.  I may not have got all the details right but hopefully a gist of them. Lots seem to be happening.   I will correct when I get the minutes which were being recorded and I will then be more up to speed.

Two of the people attending were Ricky Lawrence, who I had previously met at the Equalities Committee until he was re-posted (now Clinical Advisor Equality and Safeguarding) and Ted Nyatanga (Assistant Chief Quality Officer). I was very pleased that two very able and enthusiastic black staff were in positions of influence in the Committee.  All discussions were informative and constructive.

Briony stated that the Terms of Reference of the Committee were due to be updated and agreed yearly as agreed.  This is a mark of good practice, and I would expect similar to be the case for all LAS Committees. Things change and develop, hopefully positively.

A one day training courses on mental health for call handlers had taken place. These need to become mandatory. Another on-line course is available and the MIND training has been very good.

A joint mental health training programme has been developed together with SLAM, the Metropolitan Police and Lambeth. Three courses have already taken place out of a total of 13. Training with West London Mental Health Trust is being developed and it is hoped this can be offered more widely.

Alan Taylor spoke about the development of a Safeguarding supervision model DVDs on dementia for training purposes, two of which will be on line.

Some national funding has become available to develop dementia training.  Some will be focused on control room staff and others training will apply to on scene.  This may develop into national use.

Safeguarding issues need more room to be recorded, so a continuation sheet is being considered for patient's records.

A mental health risk assessment tool is being relaunched in the New Year.

The roles of Mental Health nurses are being expanded - which in part make the jobs more satisfying and will help develop relationships with different areas and services.

24/7 clinical advice is available in respect of mental illness - the mental health nurses are available about 70% of the time.

The first draft of an LAS Dementia strategy was being circulated for comments and recommendations.  I have responded with a few queries and suggestions.

Issues around 136 developing as this is a key problem area.  Other links with the Samaritans. Silver Line (frequent callers), and the Red Cross in Lambeth and Southwark are being developed.to expand community links and services and possibly help to strengthen a 3rd sector group to link more widely and more joined up. It seemed a positive and constructive meeting.

Kathy West

Executive Committee Member