**MEETING WITH HEATHER LAWRENCE AND**

**GARRETT EMMERSON**

**Sister Josephine and Malcolm Alexander**

**January 11th 2018**

**We had a very useful meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of the LAS**

1. **Q Volunteering**
2. 50% of the funding obtained from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DDCMS) has been used to fund the RVS project, to promote volunteering in Merton and Hackney. This is designed to support exercise programmes for older people with mobility problems. This is being led by Briony Sloper, Deputy Director of Quality. A report is awaited on the development of the RVS project and Briony meets the RVS team every two weeks.
3. The other 50% has not been spent and may be available for a project that promotes volunteering, especially if this leads to recruitment to front line clinical roles. This project could be based on the work of Chris Hartley-Sharpe to promote Community First Responders. At the moment CFR recruitment appears to be inhibited by the role of St John’s which appears to be affecting recruitment of CFR.
4. The Forum will produce proposals regarding the possible use of the £50,000 funding from DDCMC. This would be based on the recruitment of volunteers of a BME heritage and would promote recruitment to the LAS.
5. We discussed the need to recruit from organisations which are centres of BME communities, e.g. faith organisations with a significant number of BME heritage members in the congregation.
6. Noted that Alex Ankrah, who was leading the Q volunteering project for DDCMS has now relocated to the Cabinet Office.
7. **LAS Strategy**
8. The Forum has submitted a response to the LAS strategic intent and is awaiting a response from the strategy team, which is led by Jaime O’Hara.
9. We emphasized our concern that the strategy needs to reflect the growth in London’s population, the poor development of alternative care services by CCGs, the failure of some hospital acute services to ensure they have the capacity to meet the needs of patients and the need for a strategic approach to recruitment from London boroughs, which would ultimately remove the need for annual recruitment from Australia.
10. We also drew attention to the lack of diversity on the LAS Board. Heather responded that a new associate Board Member, Ahmat Khutti would help to address the lack of diversity. We suggested that leading figures from the voluntary sector could make a valuable contribution to the Board e.g. the Chair of the Sickle Cell Society.
11. **Academy**

The Forum’s work with the LAS is going well. Forum members are sitting on a joint committee with the Academy staff members and participating in activities related to acting as mock patients, participating in the selection process for the next cohort of students and will be involved in the training of students in the importance of PPI in patient care.

1. **CQC Inspection**

 The CQC are expected to formally visit on March 21st and 22nd for a well

 led review. They will also visit in February for detailed inspections to

 determine if the LAS should be removed from Special Measures. The

 Forum has invited the CQC to attend its public meeting in February or

 March.

1. **Future meetings**

 we agreed to meet with Heather and Garrett each quarter.

**End**