



# Wandsworth Health News

## July

## No 40

### St George's hopes to make savings of £60 million this year

St George's new leadership is now firmly established. Gillian Norton is the new chair and Jacqueline Totterdell the new CEO.

In the last edition of Wandsworth Health News (April) we stated, "whatever the merits or not of the new leadership team, the fact remains St George's, like every other NHS hospital is being starved of cash"

To prove this point at the July Trust Board meeting the deteriorating financial situation at the hospital was given further emphasis when the first item on the agenda was the close working between the shadowy St George's Hospital Charity and the hospital.

With no letup in cutbacks in the NHS St George's is increasingly having to rely on handouts from charity.

If that wasn't bad enough, the financial record of the hospital under the leadership of the

two new brooms to date does not look impressive.

At month two of the financial year the hospital was already £6.9 million in deficit.

In addition, the overall debt to the NHS had increased by £3.4 million in May and now stood at £46.4 million.

The hospital's reported to NHS England that its planned deficit was for £28.5 million by the end of the financial year.

This was to be achieved mainly by Cost Improvement Programmes (CIPs) set to save £60 million.

To date the hospital's CIPs targets have never been achieved

To summarise the past two years St George's financial position has got worse

2015/16 Annual deficit £54 million

2016/17 Annual deficit £74 million

The projected deficit for this financial year of £28.5 million already at month two looks unachievable.

The new brooms have not started well.

#### At a glance:

- St George's Annual deficit 2015/16     £54 million
- St George's Annual deficit 2016/17     £74 million
- St George's deficit year to date £6.9 million
- Hospital needs to make savings of £60 million this financial year.
- Planned deficit for this financial year of £28.5 million already at month two looks way off target.
- Overall debt to NHS England increased by £3.4 million in May.
- Debt to NHS England £46.4 million to date.

## Andrew Grimshaw, St George's new Chief Financial Officer



Andrew Grimshaw from the London Ambulance Service has been appointed as the hospital's new chief financial officer.

He attended his first Board meeting this month.

As head of finance he will be responsible for keeping the hospital to its impossible financial commitments.

His first financial report does not bode well.

He wants to reduce pay by £1.5 million a month. If this means relying less on expensive agency staff all well and good, but if he means reducing staff costs in other ways that is not a good sign.

The hospital already has a vacancy rate of 17%, well above the target 10% figure.

Cutting staff to save costs will only lead to more demoralisation amongst a work force that is already facing

increased bullying and harassment.

His other idea is that there should be, 'big ticket items' prioritised on a, 'return on investment basis'.

These 'big ticket items' are to be estates, procurement and the temporary workforce. Just what he has in mind will no doubt become clearer as the months go by.

## Trust Board doesn't mention proposed closure of St Helier

At the July Trust Board meeting not a word was mentioned about the proposed closure of nearby St Helier hospital.

Under the South west London Sustainability and Transformation plan (STP), one, or possibly two hospitals in the area are set to close.

The new brooms must be aware of this but no plans seem to have been drawn up as to how to cope with the influx of new patients from St Helier.

If another hospital in South west London closes St George's, already bursting at the seams, will be overwhelmed.

Targets are already being missed and waiting times on the increase. With the hospital facing an influx of thousands of new patients from a closed St Helier the situation would be dire.

South west London has had too many hospital closures already, any more would lead to a complete collapse in the service .

**Wandsworth Health News-looking at NHS services in Wandsworth**

**All comments, criticisms etc, contact**

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For more information or to join go to:

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**Wandsworth Group of Keep Our NHS Public**  
**Meets the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm**  
**at the PCS building by Clapham Junction Station**  
**Entrance via the car park**

**All Welcome**

**Email: [wandsworthkonp@gmail.com](mailto:wandsworthkonp@gmail.com)**