

## Lakeland Forum 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Lisnaskea 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

#### Theme: Other surgeries / general

- Where were the service users from who were part of the consultation?
- Can the trust address the fact that a colleague's recent journey from Bellanaleck to Altnagelvin took 2hr 40 mins (Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Jan)?
- You talk about 'patient' experience being really important. They will not be transported in a 'blue light' ambulance- more like a bus- so not a good experience and they could be dead on arrival!
- How many consultants DONT do private?
- Gynae and obstetrics have become disestablished!
- Where do the panel reside?
- When is elective lists starting in Enniskillen? Will they be running weekly?
- Will our questions be addressed online so that people can read and see the answers?
- Can we have an independent review on the actions of the Western Trust?
- Will the final report be compiled by an independent source? If so WHO?
- Do any of the trust actually live in the area affected?
- Does removal include surgery done under local anaesthetic with acute need eg. Incision and drain of abscess?
- What is going to happen women needing C-section do they need to go to Derry?
- Where did bariatric surgery go to? What happened renal transplants going to SWAH?
- When is the elective surgery starting? Do you think this is better priority than emergency services to this area?
- Would it be possible for the surgeons coming to carry out the surgery in the elective overnight hub to provide consultant cover for emergency surgery?
- Would there be 2 consultants available to cover at a time, one to cover day time emergency surgery and other the elective hub and the overnight stays and other surgical emergencies?
- If an elective centre can be set up that obviously means surgeons on site 24 hrs to cover- how can you suddenly find that workforce but not now?
- These surgeons get paid extra for these services why can they not operate in normal NHS?
- Will there be an investigation into the mismanagement of our senior level of the SWAH? It is obvious this is the issue?
- We came to say what the trust has not wanted to hear what we are saying and trust is certainly not listening.
- How temporary is temporary? Why can't surgical rotas include emergency procedures?
- You are so late with public consultation it is shameful!
- Why are adverts for Altnagelvin and not SWAH?
- Who in the HSC/ Dept of Health sanctioned transfer of patients to Sligo?
- Has there been an impact assessment to other services as a result of removing emergency general surgeries?

- Have the trust put in any tenders to DoH to become a regional centre of excellence?
- Where is the vision and leadership to utilize the world class facilities and staff, to grow, expand sources and safeguard for future generations?
- Have there been any emergency surgeries carried out at SWAH since 05/12/22?
- How do you justify 1 in 2 dying in a blue light situation from Enniskillen?

### **Theme: Staff- recruitment and retainment**

- Why is the trust not looking into why they cannot retain staff? Why do new surgery jobs not specify SWAH as a base- even for 6 months at a time?
- Why are you not advertising consultants from other countries?
- What is wrong with the recruitment process? Is it the toxic culture in the Western Trust?
- What is being done to reassure the obstetric team who clearly have concerns? What is being done to prevent them leaving?
- What existing guidelines for recruitment to rural areas were utilised?
- Why were there no people shortlisted in recent recruitment which stated it was for Altnagelvin?
- In 2019 6 consultants left. Was there a change in their management at the time? Were exit interviews conducted- what was the reason for them leaving? What is the learning?
- Why were the 4 recent applicants not short listed? Response to recent leaving communication from general surgeon? No access to theatres? Not trusted?
- Why would anyone apply for a position when the hospital services are constantly under threat? No young or experienced staff are going to want to move/ relocate unless the narrative is changed. Do the WHSCT have any 10 year visions to spend in order to safeguard and use hospital correctly?
- What was the pay and benefits package offered to 'new recruits' – was this better or worse than packages offered elsewhere in NI?
- Are other services at risk due to inability to recruit?
- Is this about recruitment or clinical standards changing?
- Consolidation of staff and services takes place throughout the lower pay bands. Why instead of separate trust contracts, are bands 8 and above not regional contracts for central base and the surgeons cover an NI rota? This has been a transformation of services for NIAS and potentially pathology- so why not surgical rotas?
- Job descriptions made SWAH sound like a cottage hospital. Deliberate misinformation on behalf of trust. Deliberate manipulation over a period of years to wind down surgical services.
- 2 new surgeons have reportedly started lists in Omagh. How have they met the criteria to work in Omagh while you are unable to recruit to SWAH? Greater risk operating in Omagh than SWAH.
- What is the criteria for surgeons to work in SWAH? Why did the surgeons apply if they didn't meet the criteria?

- Why can't surgeons work on 2 sites? Other departments have been surviving on locum cover why has this not been arranged in this instance?

### **Theme: Ambulatory and Transport Times**

- When patients from Fermanagh are admitted to Altnagelvin for surgery- what plans are in place to get them home? There is a cost of living crisis people can't afford transport- also no direct transport routes- public transport is not appropriate post-surgery.
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- Why for safe treatment, do consultants have to be based 30mins away, yet Fermanagh residents will be travelling up to 90mins plus? Is this still safe?
- How can it be equitable when over 58,607 people in Fermanagh will be outside 60min travel window?
- You are not considering the stress and impact on people and families on travelling to Altnagelvin when we have the SWAH. What happened to the golden hour?
- Private ambulances costing 35K/ month- can we increase surgeon's salary with this?
- Why do those of most risk needing a blue light ambulance get a private ambulance with a first aider?
- If ambulances are being used to transport patients from SWAH to Altnagelvin what happens in emergencies if these are in use doing that?
- What were NIAS thoughts on the changes as they are delivering an already stretched service?

### **Theme: Presentation/ Venue**

- Very hard to read slides (too busy, too much text) even from half way down the hall.
- Why did you need an independent facilitator?
- Sound is very poor and echo'y!
- Agenda? Copy of presentation? More effective chairing of discussion needed.
- Awful acoustics!
- Consultation documentation should be available.
- Why are we listening to a presentation? This is supposed to be a consultation. We know this before we know data and information.
- Why does the trust, expect us, the general public, to come up with ideas? This is sheer nonsense, or are they admitting defeat?