

Health Liaison Board report by Cllr Tony Searles

Since our last meeting I have attended approximately 15 health related meetings from CCG, HWB, PPG and Council of Governors at Darent Valley. All of these meetings have a bearing on the local provision of health needs. Whilst at these meetings I am always mindful of our Mind the Gap document.

I reported last time of the major health issues that the CCG have highlighted (as in the minutes) as their priorities for the DGS area.

I can confirm that Darent Valley NHS Trust have now stopped all talks regarding merging with Chatham, Monitor have acknowledged this. The current situation is that Darent Valley has been invited to tender for the ongoing work they have been doing at Queen Mary's Hospital and Erith Hospital. The idea will possibly be for Darent Valley to try for Foundation Trust status having retained the work they carry out at these hospitals.

Darent Valley are enlarging the A&E department at Dartford, this is to accommodate the closing of A&E departments elsewhere. Currently 22-25% of all admissions come from the Bexley area. Darent Valley current is looking at the problem of attending A&E rather than a GP and the problems of health tourists.

Darent Valley Trust membership is only 703 very low when you consider the amount of residents in the Sevenoaks catchment area of the Trust, the trust would like to see a push on membership. (Perhaps we could have an article in the next edition of In shape, I understand there are to be a few articles around health issues)

Darent Valley patients have suffered, as have patients in other trust with the new transport scheme run by NSL, this seems to be getting better now that NSL have been called in by KCC.

The CCG are looking at ways to interact with the younger population by social media means. The use of the Better Care Fund has been highlighted and a report is awaited.

It has been recognised that a high percentage of GP'S in the area are coming up to retirement age and some work is being done around federations of surgeries. New ruling that patients can now attend any GP's surgery are in its infancy, clearly this will not work until the roll out of Summary Care notes online.