



Newsletter

Issue 3: FEBRUARY 2011

Friends of Chiswick Health Centre
www.fchc.co.uk

**SUMMER MEETING
CHISWICK TOWN HALL
SATURDAY 11th JUNE 2011: 10.30 am to Midday**

Dear Friends, Welcome to our third Newsletter!

With three doctors' practices and a dental practice, the combined patients registered and cared for by the Chiswick Health Centre is just over **20,000**, representing around 9% of the population of the Borough of Hounslow. Many thousands of other Chiswick Residents also use the facilities at the Health Centre.

It is important that we receive equitable funding from Government for Chiswick Health Centre. Representing 9% or more of the population of Hounslow, we would hope to receive at least the equivalent in funding and services.

It is ironic, then that, we tell you that Hounslow PCT has reduced the funding for the Chiswick Health Centre Treatment Room, which makes it impossible to run effectively ! We are campaigning that the funding will be restored asap.

SERVICES LOST / REDUCED FROM CHISWICK HEALTH CENTRE

- Integrated counseling services
- Social workers for patients aged over 65
- Incontinence clinics
- Dieticians
- Rheumatology Consultations
- Urology specialists
- Epilepsy supervision
- Reduced family planning clinics
- **Since January 2011, restricted use of the Treatment Room.**

THE WHITE PAPER

All 57 GP practices in Hounslow are now members of Hounslow's Great West Commissioning Consortium (GWCC), which theoretically should see local GP's take an increasing role in shaping and making decisions on service improvements.

FCHC will continue to lobby for funding for service and estate improvements and support cases for reinstatements and development of services.

FCHC are also concerned at the amount of time Doctors are having to spend on NHS bureaucracy, eg fighting to recover previously agreed funding for the treatment room.

FCHC will continue to work with Health Watch UK (previously Hounslow LiNK), the government monitoring body.

DENTAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENTS

The dental practice, led by Dr Clarke and Dr Marnitz at Chiswick Health Centre has been operating since the 1970's. Over the years the practice has continued to offer a comprehensive NHS service to the many thousands of patients. There are now new rules being introduced by the government, requiring supervision by the Care Quality Commission. The CQC will ensure that the level of care and service for the public has a minimum standard whether in a nursing home, a hospital and now, a dental surgery. Next year, the doctors' practices will also be monitored by CQC too, so all of the CHC will be affected. All practices, embrace these initiatives fully, as the safety and care of

The FCHC Executive Committee:

Chairman - Paul Hopper, Treasurer - Geeta Howles,

Members - Mike Ambrose, Jane Blanckenhagen, Beryl Cross, Neil Dacey, Iris Hill, Jane Thomson, Kevin & Margo Whiston, John Todd, Nigel Woolner, Secretary - Richard Laux

patients is our first duty, but it does mean that there must be improvements to the building here at CHC. However, Space is at a premium.

CHISWICK HEALTH CENTRE - THE BUILDING

The building dates back to the 70's, when it was seen as a beacon of good architecture and practice. Since its heyday, however, a serious lack of investment and planning has compromised its ability to accommodate and meet future services.

A recent exercise to find additional space at the Health Centre, included discussions whether to relocate the Baby Clinic away from the Health Centre in order to provide additional space. This was not agreed, I hasten to add, but it serves to highlight how vulnerable other services at the Health Centre are.

Recently de-commissioned services from hospitals, eg, Dermatology and Diabetes would struggle finding space in the Health Centre, as would the installation of an Echo / ECG (Heart monitoring facility). It may mean that these much needed services go elsewhere!

There is still a long list of improvements needed to the infrastructure of the building, including new chairs in the patients waiting area, an air conditioning system, improved lighting in the hallways and sound proofing for some offices.

APOLOGIES :

In our last newsletter we said that the Brief intervention counseling service, had been lost from CHC. In fact, it still exists but runs a restricted service from its original brief.

Apologies to members who left their contact details at our 13th Nov 2010 meeting, the details were lost. Please do get in touch with us again.

Thank you Iris Hill for setting up our website

MEMBERSHIP

FCHC has a fast growing membership and it is important that you register your interest to demonstrate that we have a very real and very strong presence backed by the local community. We **do** need your membership.

.....



please share your experiences with us or let us have your contact details to stay in touch.....

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

We do need funds to help support us in our cause to champion our Health Centre and are asking for a £10 annual voluntary contribution. We are incurring costs, eg printing our newsletter and for hiring rooms large enough for us all to meet and debate the issues concerning our Health centre. If you could help, please make a cheque out to Friends of Chiswick Health Centre.

Send to: Friends of Chiswick Health Centre, Fishers Lane, Chiswick, W4 1RX

Hand in: At box by community reception, at the Health centre.

e-mail: Your contact details and experiences to **chairman@fchc.co.uk** or **treasurer@fchc.co.uk** or **secretary@fchc.co.uk** or **feedback@fchc.co.uk**

Thank you

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