

**Dear Mayor Glanville and Dr Stephanie Coughlin,**

**CRISIS IN THE**[**CARE OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS - VERY LONG WAITS FOR MENTAL HEALTH BEDS AT THE HOMERTON A&E - 12 HOURS OR MORE**](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.patientsforumlas.net%2Fuploads%2F6%2F6%2F0%2F6%2F6606397%2Fmental_health_ed_report_for_homerton_-cog_agenda_-_malcolm_alexander__002_.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7C386aacadc0b542c2f9ba08dad3c7d6fd%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638055152503456466%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wkvB2idLzBWFYx44jJAj7aD0bGRbAq0aQxVt0fO0w0o%3D&reserved=0)

I know you are fully aware of the data below regarding 12 hour plus waits in the Homerton A&E for patients in a mental health crisis needing a bed to be found for them. Such long waits not only exacerbate their crisis but are likely to be unlawful in terms of breaches to the statutory duty of Parity of Esteem. Long waits in AE for patients in a mental health crisis also puts a strain on the AE staff and reduces their capacity to admit patients needing emergency care arriving in AE. The consequences for patients are dire. In one case a patient waited in A&E for 48 hours and twice fled from the A&E, and in another a patient having waited for a long period in A&E for readmission to ELFT attempted suicide.

1)   Can you please tell me what action you are taking at ICB and LBH level to resolve this crisis?

2)   Will the ICB commission the provision of more beds to meet local need?

3)   How are the ICB, ELFT the City and Hackney Health and Care Partnership and NHS England, collaborating to secure adequate numbers of beds for patients in an acute mental health crisis?

4)   Is each organisation committed to reducing and eventually eliminating these very long waits, with the aim of bringing A&E waiting times for patients in a mental health crisis, back to no more than four hours from arrival in A&E to admission?

I am aware that this matter was discussed at the HUH Board meeting on November 30th.

**Malcolm Alexander**

**Healthwatch Hackney**

**O7817505193**

**1/12/22**

**Data for patients held in Homerton ED for more than 12hours – after decision to admit**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2021-2022** | **Mental****Health** |  |  |
| **Month** | **MH** | **Medical** | **Total** |
| April ‘21 | 1 |  | 1 |
| May ‘21 | 2 |  | 2 |
| June ‘21 | 2 |  | 2 |
| July  ‘ 21 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| August ‘21 | 2 |  | 2 |
| September ‘21 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| October  ‘21 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| November  ‘21 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| December ‘21 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| January  ‘22 | 2 |  | 2 |
| February ‘ 22 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| March ‘ 22 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| April  ‘22 | 5 |  | 5 |
| May ‘22 | 17 |  | 17 |
| June  ‘22 | 19 |  | 19 |
| July   ‘22 | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| August ‘22 | 18 |  | 18 |
| September ‘22 |  |  |  |
| October ‘22 |  |  |  |
| November ‘22 |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | **92** | **13** | **105** |

Dr Stephanie Coughlin (ICP Clinical Lead, City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group) (Co-Chair)