

Report from Lady Kay Fisher

The successful merger of the **Suffolk & Norfolk Mental Health NHS Trusts** has already produced savings of £4M due to the integration of the senior management team (now based in Hellesdon Norwich), and the reduction in backroom administration (ie HR & Legal, Finance). These savings have led to the development of a much needed in bed unit for Children & Adolescents with mental health problems. My condolences go to the family of Lord (Tony) Newton (Chairman of Suffolk MH NHS Trust who has recently died) who had been very instrumental in making this happen.

There has been concern over the reduction in numbers of fully qualified District Nurses (12%) in the community in Norfolk (see Sat's EDP). However a new way of working within a multi-disciplinary team (The Manchester Model) is being established throughout Norfolk which is largely proving successful in enabling people to remain comfortably in their own home. The join up between leaving hospital, support from Social Care, symptom control, and holistic end of life care is generally good, and much preferred by patients, and their families with few exceptions.

**The Queen Elizabeth Hospital** will no longer be carrying out emergency & elective vascular surgery, although this will continue at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. Out patient clinics and diagnosis & day care will continue.

The implementation of the **Health & Social Care Act 2012** (see following attachment). The NHS Commissioning Board & Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs) will have the same powers as the (now extinct) PCTs to make payments to local authorities towards expenditure on community services. Senior appointments to the new organisations will be made at local & national levels by June 2012, and similarly staff will be transferred into new organisations either via TUPE or a competitive process by April 2013.

The Government are cogitating on an alcohol strategy as has been adopted in Scotland. There is consultation on the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol in England & Wales in order to reduce binge drinking and associated problems.

I have also had the privilege of riding out with an ambulance crew. My heartfelt thanks to Marie & Tim at the **Thetford Ambulance Station** who put up with my questions and inspired me with their dedication & professionalism.