



**Enter & View
Report**

**The Drive Surgery
68 The Drive,
Ilford, Essex
IG1 3HZ**

Thursday 12th October 2017

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Please contact us for more details.

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Service Provider	The Drive Surgery 68 The Drive, Ilford, Essex IG1 3HZ
Contact Details	Practice manager- Prabhjot Bajwa
Date/time of visit	Thursday 12th October 2017, 11.00am-12.30pm
Type of visit	Announced visit
Authorised representatives undertaking the visits	Sarah Oyebanjo Naina Thaker
Contact details	Healthwatch Redbridge 1st Floor, 103 Cranbrook Road Ilford, Essex IG1 4PU 020 3874 4120

Acknowledgements

Healthwatch Redbridge (HWR) would like to thank the staff and patients at The Drive Surgery for their contribution to the Enter & View programme.

Disclaimer

Please note that this report related to findings observed during our visit made on Thursday 12th October 2017.

Our report is not a representative portrayal of the experiences of all service users and staff, only an account of what was observed and contributed at the time of the visits.

What is Enter & View?

Part of the local Healthwatch programme¹ is to carry out Enter & View visits. Enter & View visits are conducted by a small team of trained volunteers, who are prepared as 'Authorised Representatives' to conduct visits to health and social care premises.

Enter & View is the opportunity for Healthwatch Redbridge to:

- Enter publicly funded health and social care premises to see and hear first-hand experiences about the service.
- Observe how the service is delivered, often by using a themed approach.
- Collect the views of service users (patients and residents) at the point of service delivery.
- Collect the views of carers and relatives through evidence based feedback by observing the nature and quality of services.
- Report to providers, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Local Authorities, Commissioners, Healthwatch England and other relevant partners.

Enter & View visits are carried out as 'announced visits' where arrangements are made with the service provider, or, if certain circumstances dictate, as 'unannounced' visits.

Enter & View visits can happen if people tell us there is a problem with a service but, equally, they can occur when services have a good reputation - so we can learn about and share examples of what a service does well.

Section 221(2) of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/section/221>

Introduction

Healthwatch Redbridge (HWR) is conducting Enter & View visits to all GP practices across Redbridge as part of our work programme during July to October 2017.

Last year, Healthwatch Redbridge organised a series of workshops for practice managers across Redbridge, Havering, Barking and Dagenham to inform them about the Accessible Information Standard². These visits are an opportunity for HWR to discover if the standards have been implemented across the borough.

Accessible Information Standard

This standard aims to ensure that people who have a learning disability, communication impairment or sensory loss are provided with information that they can understand. They should also be able to receive support so that they can communicate effectively with health and social care services.

From 1st August 2016, all organisations that provide NHS or social care must follow the standard by law. For organisations to effectively implement the standard, they need to consider their policies, procedures, human behaviour and where applicable, electronic systems.

Purpose of the visit

The visits were planned to evaluate whether GP practices across Redbridge are implementing the standards thereby ensuring that the needs of people with communication impairments are being met.

In addition to the workshop organised for practice managers, HWR also ran workshops for people with communication impairments. The feedback continues to show that people are not receiving information in a way that they can understand.

An example of when a patient's need was not met was when she asked her GP practice to provide information in large print but they continued to give her regular font. On one occasion, she missed her appointment because the letter that the surgery sent to her was not in the right font meaning she was unable to read it.

² <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/access-info-upd-july-15.pdf>

NHS England reviewed the Accessible Information Standard during January-March 2017. Their subsequent report³ found that many participants felt that the standard could have a significantly greater impact than it has done to date. This suggests that monitoring its compliance is necessary.

These visits will identify any areas where improvements could benefit patients. There is also an opportunity for Healthwatch to share examples of good practice found in GP surgeries across Redbridge. It is hoped that our findings will support practices in improving their services and making reasonable adjustments to meet patients' health care needs.

Strategic Drivers:

- Part of Healthwatch Redbridge's work plan 2017-18
- Implementation of NHS Accessible Information Standards
- Seldom heard groups and the way in which they are supported to communicate are of particular interest to local Healthwatch.

Methodology

Each Enter & View visit was announced. All 46 GP practices were informed about the visit and given about three weeks' notice of the time period that the visit will take place. The practices were not given the specific time and date but rather given a two week time frame. Information provided prior to the visit included a brief summary of the visit and the role of the attendees.

Prior to the visit, HWR staff members worked with authorised representatives to prepare questions that will be used during the visit. There were three separate set of questions: one for lead staff member, one for other staff members and one for service users.

Each visit involved observing the external and internal areas of the surgery. Representatives had the opportunity to identify any issues or challenges that someone with an impairment might face when using the facilities in the surgery.

Where possible, the representatives spoke to the practice manager, other staff members such as the receptionist and nurses and service users. Due to the specific nature of the visit, it wasn't always possible to speak to patients with communication impairments.

³ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/accessible-Info-std-review-report.pdf>

At the end of the visit, staff members were informed that a draft report would be sent to them. A draft report was sent to each GP practice and they were given 20 working days to respond with their comments.

Reviewing website accessibility

In addition to visiting the GP practices, all the practice websites were checked to find out whether they are accessible for people with communication impairments.

Three volunteers assessed each website using a checklist (Appendix 1) devised by HWR staff members. Two of the volunteers who reviewed the website had communication impairments; one of the volunteers was Deaf and the other volunteer has Asperger's Syndrome.

Results of website review

- It is not possible to change the size of the text on the website.
- The colour of background cannot be changed.
- The images have text descriptions explaining what the image is about.
- The website does not have a "sitemap" button.
- It is not possible to navigate the website without a mouse.
- The website does not have audio content.
- The content of the website is written in plain English.

Results of the visit

Observations made outside the premises:

- The name of the surgery is displayed on the window. The font size is large but some of the letters have fallen off.
- No accessible parking is available.
- There is an elevated pathway leading to the main door. The edge of this pathway is not highlighted.

Observations made inside the premises:

- No trip hazards were identified.
- There is no glass screen separating staff members from patients. Receptionists sit facing patients and this makes it easy to lip-read if necessary.
- The name of the doctor was written on the consultation room door. It was written in a blue font on white background.
- There was no picture on the toilet door but only words.
- There were a lot of notices on the noticeboard but they were adequately spaced out. Most of the notices were written on yellow paper.
- The complaint/compliment procedure was written in a regular font size. It did not mention its availability on other formats such as large print.
- An electronic screen is available in the waiting room. Information is written in a red font on black background.
- A hearing loop sign is available on the noticeboards and also on the door leading in to the surgery. The hearing loop is placed on the desk in reception so it is easy for the patients to see that it is available.
- The fire alarms have a red flashing light as well as sound.
- Fire exits are clearly signed in both words and pictures.
- A poster informing patients about the Accessible Information Standard is available on the noticeboard.

Speaking to the practice manager

The practice manager was not available on the day of the visit so a representative spoke to the deputy practice manager.

- The deputy practice manager said that patients are asked about their communication needs when they first register at the surgery. Patients are given a questionnaire to find out their past medical records and their communication needs.
- A representative was shown the registration form and it asks people about whether they are a carer and if the person has a disability but there is no specific question about the person's communication needs.

- With regards to identifying the needs of existing patients, there is a 'pop up' system that flags up patients' need. Staff members know most of the patients' communication needs. The surgery also gets their hospital updates.
- Patients' communication needs are recorded on the database.
- The surgery uses EMIS-Web database⁴.
- Doctors and nurses are informed of the patients communication needs by the computer system because the information 'pops up' when the patient's name is entered into the database.
- There is a portable hearing loop. A representative checked the hearing loop using the hearing loop checker and it worked.
- The hearing loop is fairly new so it has not been checked yet.
- Staff members have been provided with training on how to use the hearing loop.
- Patients are made aware of the hearing loop because the hearing loop is placed in a highly visible area and there are signs informing patients about its availability.
- Staff members have been provided with deaf awareness, communication and easy read training. There are regular in-house training sessions provided by the practice manager and doctors.
- Training sessions last for about an hour and take place once a month.
- The surgery is able to provide information in different formats such as large print.
- With regards to providing information for patients with a hearing impairment, staff members would speak clearly, write information down, talk face to face to enable lip reading and also use the hearing loop.
- For patients with a visual impairment, staff members are able to provide large print information.
- For patients with learning disabilities, staff members can use the communication book, speak slowly and use basic language. Many patients with learning disabilities come with their carers.
- The surgery is able to book BSL interpreters using Big Word.
- The deputy practice manager gave an example of a family where the child supports the Deaf parents. The representative mentioned that it is important that the surgery books an interpreter for the sake of privacy and confidentiality. The deputy manager said that if they needed to talk to the parents about sensitive information then they book the interpreters.
- A communications book is available.

⁴ EMIS is an electronic patient health record system used by many GPs

- If the next of kin/ carer of the patient has any communication needs, this can be noted on the database.

Speaking to staff

- The receptionist was unaware of AIS.
- Staff members have been provided with training on how to support patients with visual impairments, hearing impairments and learning disabilities.
- She said that it would be beneficial to have AIS training.
- There is a 'pop up' system to inform staff members of patient's communications needs.
- When asked how a patient with a hearing impairment would know that they have been called for their appointment, she said that the doctor will come out and get the patient or the receptionist will take the patient in.
- A portable hearing loop is available.
- With regards to providing information for someone with a hearing impairment, she said that staff members are able to book a BSL interpreter.
- For someone with a visual impairment, staff can contact family members whilst people with learning disabilities often come with their carers.
- The receptionist was unsure whether there is a communications book.
- In the case of a fire, two fire marshals would help patients to evacuate the building.
- A fire drill has not taken place recently but the fire alarm is tested every fortnight.

Speaking to patients

Representatives spoke to five patients during the visit.

- The five patients could not remember whether they were asked about their communication needs.
- None of the patients had any communication needs so they were unable to provide further information.

Recommendations

1. To make the website more accessible, patients should be able to:
 - Change the size of the text; some people with a visual impairment need information in a large font size.
 - Change the colour of the background; some people cannot read text if there is insufficient contrast between text and background.
 - Navigate the whole website without a mouse; some people who are blind/partially sighted with mobility impairments rely on the keyboard.
 - Use the sitemap button, as this will make it easier for people with communication impairments to find information on the website.
 - Access website information via screen readers and translation software (such as Browesaloud®⁵) especially for people with visual impairments.

Provider Response:

To change the size of the text font the patient can use ctrl + to zoom. The browser has an inbuilt function that will zoom in and out making the font larger or smaller.

The website currently has a white background with black text, we believe this is the best colour combination for contrast.

The query about navigating the whole website without a mouse is with website development team to see if it is currently possible.

The query about using the sitemap button is with website development team to look into this for us.

Browse aloud integration is currently available on the website.

Healthwatch Response:

It is unclear from viewing the website that the font size can be increased. It might be helpful to explain this on your home page.

Although we reviewed the website, we could not find the Browesaloud® symbol.

⁵ <https://www.texthelp.com/en-gb/products/browsealoud/>

2. The name of the surgery on the window should be reprinted to ensure that all the letters are visible.

Provider Response:

The name of the surgery on the window has been reprinted.

3. Although we understand that people with communication needs often attend appointments with their carers; staff should reduce reliance on carers, family and friends to relay information to the individual. This is because it compromises a patients' right to privacy and dignity.

4. Staff should receive training on AIS.

Provider Response:

After Healthwatch visited the surgery, all staff members have received refreshment training on AIS.

5. The complaints/compliments procedure should be available in a variety of formats such as large print.

Provider Response:

The complaints/compliments procedure is available in a large print.

6. We are pleased that the surgery has a poster informing patients about AIS. If possible, this information should be available on an A3 poster.

Provider Response:

The surgery ramp edge has been highlighted for visual impaired patients.

7. The surgery should consider 'highlighting the edge of the ramp to ensure that people with visual impairments are able to see it.

Provider Response:

The AIS A3 poster has been displayed.

Service Provider Responses

We would like to thank The Drive Surgery for the responses made and Healthwatch Redbridge has incorporated them within this report where appropriate.

Distribution

- The Drive Surgery
- Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Group
- Barking, Havering and Redbridge Quality Surveillance Group
- Care Quality Commission
- Healthwatch England

Appendix 1 - Website accessibility checklist

Website accessibility checklist

Questions	Yes	No
Can you change the text size?	Yes	No
	Comments	
Can you change the colour of the background?	Yes	No
	Comments	
Does the website have a "sitemap" button?	Yes	No
	Comments	
Are there keyboard shortcuts? / Can you navigate the website without a mouse?	Yes	No
	Comments	
Does the website have audio content?	Yes	No
	Comments	
Is the website content written in "plain English"?	Yes	No
	Comments	
Additional comment		

Appendix 2 - Observation sheets

GUIDANCE For Enter & View to GP Surgeries Re: Accessible Information

Observation Checklist

Name of Surgery: _____

Name of Authorised Representative: _____

Date: _____



Observations/Questions	Yes	No
Getting to the Service: There is sufficient and clear signage to the premises being visited: signs are clear, unobstructed and easily readable	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
There is accessible & sufficient parking available close to the entrance - drop off point directly outside the entrance	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
A ramp/lift is available, or there is a working assistance bell - <i>Edge of ramp highlighted to keep people off uneven surface</i>	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Fire alarms have a light as well as sound	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Fire exits clearly signed in various formats. Words Pictures	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Within the premises: Are there trip hazards/sharp edges/furniture in pathway (both permanent & temporary)	Yes Comments:	No Comments:

Signs in various formats including pictures (e.g. on toilet doors - are they clear/contrasting/pictures)	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Interaction between staff and service users; are they facing service user whilst talking to them using body language to communicate as well as verbal communication, is plain language - is plain language used	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Complaint/compliments procedure information is available in alternative formats - for patients & relatives - is it on the noticeboard	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Are the noticeboards cluttered, and are the notices easily legible	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Is there a hearing loop sign?	Yes Comments:	No Comments:
Does the surgery have an electronic screen to inform patients of their appointment - if so what colour are the screen and writing - does it show room no. Doctor name - is it audio as well as visual		
Further Comments: Please provide any relevant information about accessible information		

Appendix 3 - Questions for lead staff

Questions for MANAGER/PERSON IN CHARGE at

GP Surgery

Name of Surgery: _____
 Name of lead manager: _____
 Name of Authorised Representatives: _____
 Date: _____

1. Are patients asked about their communication needs when they first register at the surgery? For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are they asked if they have difficulties with sight/hearing? Are they asked if they have a learning disability? 	Yes	No
Please explain		
2. What have you put in place for existing patients to ensure that you are aware of their communication needs?	Comments	
3. How are these needs recorded if they have any?	Comments	
<i>NOTE FOR REPS: If the manager seems unsure you can prompt them with the following questions: Are they recorded on a database? Or by any other means?</i>		
4. When a patient presents at reception, is there a 'pop up' which flags their needs?	Yes	No
5. If yes, what system do you use?	Comments	
6. If there is no system in place can you explain the reasons for this?	Comments	

7. Is there a process in place to ensure that the doctor/nurse dealing with the patient whilst they are in the surgery are aware of their communication needs before they start to interact with them?	Yes	No
Comments		
8. Is there a hearing loop in the surgery, if there is what type of loop is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed/Portable/Both 	Comments	
9. Have staff been provided with training on how to use it?	Yes	No
Comments		
10. Are patients made aware that a hearing loop is available?	Yes	No
Comments		
11. What training is provided to support all staff to communicate effectively with patients? Deaf awareness training Communication training Dementia awareness Easy read training	Last date of training	Yes
Yes		
No		
Yes		
No		
Yes		
No		
Comments		
Comments		
12. How often do you have this training?	Yes	No
Comments		
13. Is information available in different formats to make it accessible to all patients and are patients aware of this? For example: large print, easy read, Braille, Audio. <i>NOTE FOR REPS: Please ask to see examples of this if possible and comment on what you have seen</i>	Comments	
14. What format do you provide for people with: a. Hearing impairment b. Visual impairment c. Learning disabilities	Comments	

15. Are you able to access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSL (British Sign Language) interpreters Signalong (based on BSL) MAKATON (a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate) 	Yes	No
Comments		
16. Where/which organisations might you access the above if you use them?	Comments	
17. Do you have a communication book? <i>NOTE FOR REPS: If they have one, please ask to see it and comment on what you have seen</i>	Yes	No
Comments		
18. If the next of kin/carer of the patient had any communication needs, is information provided to them in a format that is accessible to them?	Yes	No
Comments		
19. How would you know this and would it be on the patients records?	Comments	
20. Is there anything you would like to share with Healthwatch Redbridge?	Comments	

Information for Manager when leaving

Inform them that we will send a copy of the report within 20 working days for your comments & corrections if necessary.

Appendix 4 - Questions for other staff

Questions for STAFF in GP Surgery

Name of Surgery: _____
 Name of Authorised Representatives: _____

Dates: _____

	Yes Comments	No Comments
1. Are you aware of the Accessible Information Standard (AIS)?		
2. Have you been provided with training on how to support patients with: NOTE FOR REPS: <i>If they answer yes, please ask what type of training it was and tick the appropriate box</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impairments: blind & partially sighted On-line <input type="checkbox"/> Face to face <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairments: profoundly deaf & hard of hearing On-line <input type="checkbox"/> Face to face <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disabilities On-line <input type="checkbox"/> Face to face <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> 	Yes Comments	No Comments
3. Do you feel that you would benefit from any other training with regard to AIS?	Yes Comments	No Comments
4. How would a patient that has a specific need be identified? <input type="checkbox"/> If had hearing impairments, visual impairments or learning disability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would it be flagged up on the computer system Electronic system A card provided by surgery they show to staff on arrival 	Yes Comments <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	No Comments
5. How would a patient with a hearing impairment know that they had been called for their appointment? <i>Please ask staff member to describe this</i>	Yes Comments	No Comments

	Yes Comments	No Comments
6. Is there a hearing loop in the surgery, if there is what type of loop is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed/Portable/Both 	Yes Comments	No Comments
7. Are you aware of the ways that information should be provided for people with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hearing impairments visual impairments learning disability? If yes, what are they? NOTE FOR REPS: <i>If the member of staff is struggling to give some examples you can prompt them.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing impairments - British sign language, subtitles on TV Visual impairments - Large print or audio Learning disabilities - Easy Read 	Yes Comments	No Comments
8. Do you have a communications book? NOTE FOR REPS: <i>If they have one, please ask to see it and comment on what you have seen</i> 9. If there was a fire or emergency do you know if there is an appropriate alarm for those with hearing impairments? If yes, what is it? If possible, can you show us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flashing red light 	Yes No Comments	Comments
10. In the event of a fire, what is the procedure for evacuating those who are Deaf or Blind?	Comments	Comments
11. Has there been a fire drill and if yes, did it flag up any problems?	Yes Comments	No Comments
12. Is there anything you would like to share with Healthwatch Redbridge?	Comments	Comments

Appendix 5 - Questions for Patients

Questions for PATIENTS at GP Surgery

Name of Surgery: _____
 Name of Authorised Representatives: _____
 Date: _____

1. When you registered at the surgery were you asked SPECIFICALLY if you had any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hearing problems • problems with your sight • Or needed easy read information? 	Yes Comments Yes Comments Yes Comments	No Comments No Comments No Comments
2. How were you asked about this?		
3. Do you HAVE a communication need such as those mentioned above? <i>NOTE FOR REPS: If the patient answers yes, please continue with the questions, if they answer no, please say "we are here today to speak to patients with communication needs, so we don't need to keep you any longer. Thank you."</i>	Yes Comments - Please state	No Comments
4. Are staff aware of your communication needs?	Yes Please explain	No Please explain
5. Do you feel that reception staff are able to help you effectively according to your communication needs?	Yes Please explain	No Please explain

5a. Do you feel that the doctors are able to help you effectively according to your communication needs?	Yes Please explain No Please explain
5b. Do you feel that the nurses are able to help you effectively according to your communication needs?	Yes Please explain No Please explain
6. If not, how do you feel this could be improved?	Comments
7. What, if anything can be done to improve the way information is provided to you? For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large print, • audio (spoken/recorded information) • easy read 	Comments
8. Has there ever been a time when your communication needs have not been met? For example, when being called for an appointment or provided with written information	Yes No Please explain
9. Is there anything else you would like to talk to us about?	_____

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