**Brookside Adolescent Unit: concerns raised.**

On Wednesday 27 April, Healthwatch Redbridge (HWR) was made aware that the Brookside Adolescent Unit was to close. NELFT NHS Foundation Trust informed us that the decision to close was taken in the wake of concerns raised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) through their recent Trust-wide inspection.

There are a number of concerns regarding the closure:

1. The closure decision was taken very quickly:
	1. What major concern made the conditions untenable?
	2. How and when were patients and their families informed?
	3. When were staff informed?
2. Healthwatch Redbridge was not aware that the closure was taking place with immediate effect. The original information was that the Unit would not be accepting referrals for the foreseeable future. NELFT is keen to stress that the closure was temporary - effective for six weeks.
	1. What are the improvement works being carried out and what is the timescale for that work?
	2. Once planned work has been completed, what else will need to be carried out before the unit re-opens?
	3. How will NELFT ensure users, their parents and staff are kept informed of the progress of the planned improvements?
3. A number of patients do not require in-patient treatment
	1. How many young people have gone to other in-patient units?
	2. Where are these units?
4. Intensive Rehabilitation Service and Interact Teams are being used to support young people at home (24/7 support can be provided if required).
	1. How many young people will need/be offered this service?
	2. What support will be available?
5. There is an option for in-patient treatment if clinically necessary but we understand that many young people were not in need of in-patient treatment.
	1. Why were young people being treated as in-patients if there was no clinical need?

We remain concerned that this closure has happened quickly without any meaningful consultation with users, parents and staff.

**For and on behalf of Healthwatch Redbridge**

**Ends…..**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. Contact details: 020 8553 1236
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1. Healthwatch Redbridge is a network of voluntary individuals, local people and community groups who work together to improve local health and social care services.
2. Healthwatch Redbridge was set up under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to monitor, evaluate and influence local health and social care services in the London Borough of Redbridge.
3. Healthwatch Redbridge is a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Management Board. The Chair is Vanda Thomas.
4. Healthwatch Redbridge is always keen to hear the experiences of local users of health and social care services whether good or bad. Please contact the CEO using the details shown above if you would like to do this.
5. Each Local Healthwatch is an independent organisation, with a membership of individuals and community groups that work together to improve local health and social care services. There is a Local Healthwatch for each Local Authority area in England and Wales, including each London borough.
6. Local Healthwatches have a number of statutory powers to enable them to carry out their role.
	* A member of the Healthwatch Redbridge Board sits on the Redbridge Health and Wellbeing Board.
	* Can Enter and View some premises providing health and social care services
	* Can ask for information from statutory organizations such as Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authorities, GP’s and Hospitals; and expect a response within a specific timescale
	* Can make reports and recommendations for improvements and expect a response within a specific timescale
	* Can refer matters to the local Council Overview & Scrutiny Committees for further action.
7. Local Healthwatch’s provide a collective voice for patients and carers, and can offer advice on the development of local services to ensure they are informed by the views of the local community.