

Briefing

Briefing for: Southwark Healthy Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date January 2015
Subject Homeless emergency department attendance

Introduction

The Committee requested details on the number of people without homes that attend the King's Emergency Department at Denmark Hill, in addition to our links with homeless agencies.

Homeless emergency department attendance

King's holds data on the attendance of homeless people at our Denmark Hill Emergency Department collated as per the following categories:

- Attendances of people with no fixed abode
- Attendances of people who have attended from local hostels

A total of 317 attendances to our Emergency Department (ED) were made the last six months (Jul-Dec 2014) by people within the above categories. Almost 60% of these were from local hostels with the remaining of no fixed abode.

King's is host to a King's Health Partners Homeless Pathways Team (HPT). The team has been in situ for a year and is managed by a Senior Social Worker and comprises of a housing worker, a Nurse, a Social Worker and 4 GP sessions. The team provide the ED with a one stop shop service including advice about all local voluntary and statutory services, assisting with Homeless Persons Unit presentations and ensuring good ongoing coordinated healthcare.

The HPT received 178 referrals from ED and the Clinical Decision Unit in the last six months. Their annual report will be published shortly.