

Committee Updates

Ashley Brown is stepping down as Chair at the end of the year, though he will remain a committee member. Graham Foster will take over the role from January 2016.

Ashley said "it is with regret that I have taken the decision to step down from the Chair. It is a crucial time in the expansion of new drug treatments for HCV and unfortunately, competing demands from clinical service and research programmes mean that I cannot devote the time the role truly requires. I wish Graham every success as he takes over the Chair and can assure him and the rest of the committee of my ongoing commitment to the LJWG".

Graham commented: "I am delighted to be given an opportunity to advance the excellent work done by Ashley in improving the care of the most marginalised patients in our society. The current generation of drugs for hepatitis C gives us the opportunity to mitigate the harms from viral hepatitis and, in particular, reduce onward transmission of this cancer causing virus, with long term benefits for all. The LJWG is well placed to lead the change in emphasis from stopping liver damage to stopping infection and I look forward to the challenges of reducing the burden of HCV in London."

David Badcock, David Nutt and Mike Kelleher are stepping down from the committee, while John Jolly, Chief Executive at Blenheim has joined. We would very much to welcome John and to thank David, David and Mike for their commitment and efforts over the years.

LJWG 2015 Conference

 #LJWG2015

Over 150 delegates attended the 5th LJWG conference, this year run jointly with Public Health England for the first time. LJWG Chair Ashley Brown commented that this is an important partnership and a big step forward in recognising hepatitis C as a public health issue.

As both treatment options and the NHS environment are fast evolving, the conference was a timely opportunity for service providers and commissioners to share best practice and to learn more about the new hepatitis Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs). LJWG Vice-chair and Chief Executive of the Hepatitis C

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Trust Charles Gore concluded that the ODNs present an opportunity for service development and that service providers and other stakeholders need to partner with them to ensure patient needs are paramount.

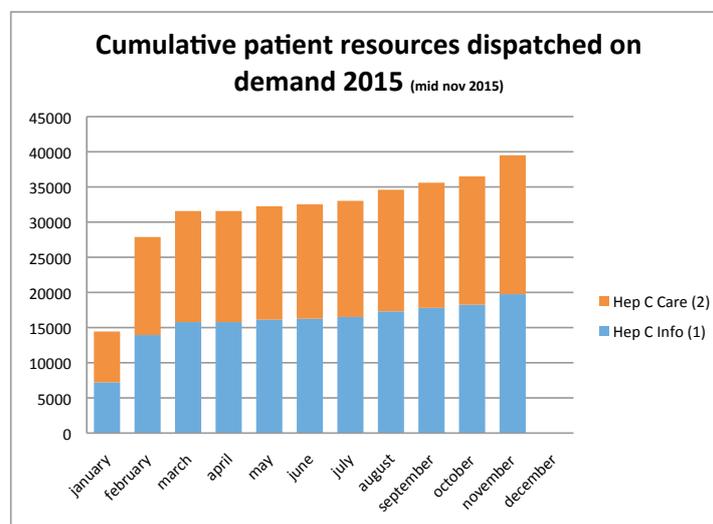
Presentations from the meeting as well as notes from the workshops can all be found on the LJWG website: <http://ljwg.org.uk/events-2/2015-conference/>

LJWG wins another award!

The LJWG won the prestigious PMEA award [for Excellence in Healthcare Collaboration and Partnerships](#) in recognition of our EASL symposium in 2014. The judges commented: "This is a strong, aspirational vision to eliminate hepatitis C, backed by clear partnership objectives with the NHS, Department of Health and Public Health England. A bold goal with a broad coalition that had a big impact on a great number of patients."

Hep C Booklets

We are delighted at the uptake of the Hep C Information and Care booklets, which were launched last year.



We think it's a very positive reflection on the quality of the materials, which were developed in close collaboration with service users. PDFs can be downloaded from <http://ljwg.org.uk/ljwg-toolkit/educational-tools/> and hard copies ordered by emailing info@ljwg.org.uk

LJWG 2016 plans



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The committee are working to finalise 2016 plans and these will be shared at the earliest opportunity in the New Year.

We would very much like to thank you all for your support and input throughout 2015 and would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016.