

Collaboration, support & mutual aid NEL perspective

Dr Charlotte Hopkins

Who we are
Homerton
King George
Newham
Queens
Royal London
St Barts
Whipps Cross





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17th March

- Needed a plan for CC expansion across NEL - baseline beds 185
- CC Network meeting
- Request to expand to 800 beds in NEL based on population levels

31st March

- Critical care hub set up for NEL daily calls
- 14th/15th Floors start construction @RLH
- Jeremy co-ordinating equipment

3rd April

- Operationally very tight
- Running out of O2, capacity and equipment
- Ambulance diverts
- Transferring patients
- Mutual aid in full flow

18th April

- Think we had peaked
- Operationally felt easier
- Managed the O2 supply
- Ambulance diverts still in place
- ICU meeting in Wellington house

What we achieved

Precedent

In April 2020, Covid-19 peak in NEL reached:

- CC occupancy of up to 262 patients
- A maximum of 310 CC beds opened
- ~85% CC patients Covid+ (confirmed and suspected)
- High demand for RRT in CC (57 pt.)
- 46 CC transfers from and within NEL during April (data available from 7th April)
- ED diverts at NUH & WXH
 - NUH – full divert from 3rd April, blue light divert 14-16th April
 - WXH – postcode blue light divert from 5th April, blue light divert 14th-21st April



My reflections....

Confident, tired,
overwhelmed,
resilient, frustrated,
undermined,
comradery, support,
vulnerable and proud

Takes time for
reality to hit home,
shifting mindsets,
messy &
uncertainties
Clinically led
pandemic

Little structure,
everyone finding their
way, looking for grip
and assurance over
plans

Initially not joined
up, politics, but
then a plan comes
together



History repeating itself...







**Sara Davenport
Veronica Bailey
Su Allirajah
Nick Bunker
Marie Healy
Jeremy Cordingley
James Napier
Kat Eigener
Tomas Jovaisa
Rajesh Jain
Jason Gittens
Chris Kirwan
And many more....**