



Getting the message – nurse Jenny Frost (left) and matron Regina Jesudass

PATIENTS at Homerton University Hospital can send a message to the matron with views, suggestions and concerns. Postcards are available on every ward in the hospital and patients can fill them in and post

them in specially made mini-pillar boxes.

“We are constantly looking for new ways to gain feedback from patients and to get a ‘patient’s eye’ view of our services,” said Jenny Negus, deputy director of

nursing at the Homerton. “Our matrons cover a number of clinical departments, so this is another way for patients to make contact with them if they miss them when they are on their rounds of the wards.”

A case against the prosecution

by JASMINE COLEMAN

MP Diane Abbott has slammed Hackney’s “dreadful” Crown Prosecution Service after national inspectors released a scathing report on the borough’s ability to convict suspected criminals.

The Hackney North and Stoke Newington MP has called for urgent action following a review by the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (CPSI), which rated overall performance standards as “poor”.

Hackney CPS, which is based at Stoke Newington police station, gets fewer convictions for suspected criminals in magistrates’ courts and crown courts than both the London and nationwide average, according to the 2009 London borough assessment report produced by the CPSI.

The team of 31 lawyers and support staff were criticised for their decision-making, preparation of court cases and levels of disclosure and were ordered to improve.

Now Ms Abbott has requested a

MP goes on the attack in the wake of ‘poor’ report

meeting with the Justice Secretary, Jack Straw, and Hackney’s borough prosecutor, Tok Adesuyan, to demand improvements. She is taking her plea to parliament, tabling an Early Day Motion for a debate in the House of Commons.

“Having read the assessment on the performance of the Hackney CPS, I am extremely disappointed at the conclusions reached,” she said.

“The report was quite right to point out how gun crime and gang violence can create problems such as intimidating witnesses, but the failure of the Hackney CPS to accommodate these issues is ruthlessly exposed in this report.

“Organisation and management in the Hackney CPS is dreadful. The lack of staff and heavy workloads mean that work is increasingly being outsourced to private agents, which, of course, costs money.

“What is the point of our policemen and women pulling criminals off the street and into custody, only for their cases to be thrown out due to poor management and organisation? What is the point of members of our community working hard to make sure thugs are not tolerated, only for the courts to fail to convict them?”

Alison Saunders, chief prosecutor for CPS London, said that action was being taken to deal with the issues raised by the inspectorate, including the appointment of extra staff to deal with the borough’s heavy workload and provision of more thorough training.

“The service provided to victims and witnesses remains of crucial importance to us and we are working with our criminal justice partners to ensure that we improve the service we provide,” she said.

hope that lessons will be learned.”

Stefan Campbell, 24, of Victoria Park Road, South Hackney and Ola Awoyemi, 24, of Romford, Essex, denied kidnapping, false imprisonment and GBH with intent on March 2 last year.

Daniel Lewis-Dyer, 24, of Anderson Road, Homerton, and Headley Sampson, 26, of Hornsey, north London, denied false imprisonment and GBH with intent.

It is thought the case cost the Met Police tens of thousands of pounds.

Judge fumes as kidnap trial collapses

FOUR suspects in a kidnapping case walked free from court last week as a judge criticised blunders by the Crown Prosecution Service.

The four were due to stand trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court accused of abducting and torturing Paul Watkins, 36, who was said to have been recruited as a drugs mule to carry £2,000 worth of narcotics to Folkestone, Kent, for shipment.

Prosecutors claimed the four held Mr Watkins hostage in a flat on the Parkside estate in South Hackney

after the haul went missing and made ransom calls to his mother.

The case collapsed after prosecutors served hundreds of pages of evidence on the defendants’ barristers on the first day of the trial.

The unserved material consisted of phone records – described as “vital to the prosecution case” – and matters relating to Mr Watkins’s character requested by the defence.

Judge Timothy King fumed: “It is symptomatic of the dreadful way in which this case has been served. I

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Muốn biết thêm thông tin, xin vui lòng liên lạc với Dịch Vụ Cố Vấn và Liên Lạc Bệnh Nhân (Patient Advice and Liaison Service: PALS), Thứ Hai - Thứ Sáu, 9am-5pm điện thoại số 0800 923 0107 hoặc 020 7683 4453

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