



**Health Select Committee  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

**Report from the Director of  
Policy & Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

**Developing a Primary and Community Care Strategy**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report presents to the Health Select Committee NHS Brent's plans for the development of a Primary and Community Care Strategy for Brent.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 NHS Brent is proposing to issue a discussion document on the Primary and Community Care Strategy in January 2009. The Health Select Committee should consider whether it supports this approach, or ask NHS Brent to run a formal consultation on the strategy.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 NHS Brent is to develop a Primary and Community Care Strategy for Brent. Improving primary care services is one of the initiatives that NHS Brent has included in its recently agreed Commissioning Strategy Plan from 2008 – 2013. Development of this strategy is a crucial part of this work, and will guide the development of primary care services in the coming years.
- 3.2 There are a number of strengths in primary care provision in Brent including innovation in some integrated care pathways, particularly supporting people with diabetes or heart disease. However, there are weaknesses such as variations in GP opening times, variations in quality and staffing within practices. Brent also has a much higher level of older GPs (25% are aged 60 or over) and single or double handed GPs than London.

3.3 NHS Brent has set out the reasons why it is developing the strategy and the case for change in its briefing paper, included as an appendix to this report. Rather than carry out a formal consultation NHS Brent is proposing to issue a discussion document in January 2009, but still consult residents on the proposals for primary care provision in the borough. NHS Brent has asked for the Health Select Committee's support for this approach.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 None

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

6.1 None

#### **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

7.1 None

### **Background Papers**

#### **Contact Officers**

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