

Appendix 1

Briefing for the Health Select Committee on the Creation of an Acute Commissioning Vehicle (The Partnership) in North-West London

The North West London Acute Partnership is being formed to strengthen commissioning for all PCTs in the sector. The prime focus of the partnership is to improve acute sector performance and delivery. It will do this in three ways:

- determining a viable provider landscape configuration in the sector
- agreeing acute sector contracts
- performance monitoring and management of acute sector contracts

Driven by the needs of its constituent PCTs, the Partnership will deliver both individual and collective commissioning intentions for Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow, Hillingdon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster PCTs and their PBC Clusters.

Bringing together commissioning expertise and scarce skills, the Partnership will be designed to ensure that each PCT develops its performance under the World Class Commissioning Framework. A creative career structure will be designed to ensure that key and scarce staff are recruited effectively and retained to ensure continuity and delivery.

Of paramount importance is that the partnership reflects the clinical priorities of the Sector PCTs and has clinical engagement at the highest level. PEC/CEC Chairs will direct the design of effective clinical engagement for the Partnership. The design will include the role for a sector-wide clinical reference group to set sector wide standards, and will ensure local PBC and PEC members are engaged with local pathway design.

To ensure focus and drive, the partnership will be overseen by a single Joint Committee of PCTs (JCPCT), a single Chair (Peter Molyneux from Kensington and Chelsea) and a sector Chief Executive (Michael Scott from Westminster).

Performance management will be key to everything that the partnership does. This falls into four headings:

- performance management of acute contracts
- improved performance of individual PCTs
- performance of the partnership itself of delivering benefits to individual PCTs
- performance management of the hub and its interaction with the partnership

Bringing together commissioning skills and resources will ensure that commissioning throughout the Sector is strengthened for the benefit of patients. An outline business case was taken to Boards in April and full business case is expected in July.

The Partnership represents a real opportunity to deliver excellent results for patients and position PCTs at the leading edge.