



Health Select Committee
15th July 2010

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

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Paediatric Services in Brent – follow up to public
consultation on paediatric services provided by North West
London NHS Hospitals Trust**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the members of the Health Select Committee on the progress that has been made to implement the changes to paediatric services at North West London NHS Hospitals Trust since the completion of public consultation on this issue in April 2010. Included in the Health Select Committee's consultation response was a request that the trust report back on progress in the summer of 2010.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Select Committee considers the reports provided by North West London NHS Hospitals Trust and questions officers on the progress to date in implementing the changes to paediatric services at Northwick Park and Central Middlesex Hospitals.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 North West London NHS Hospitals Trust (which manages Northwick Park and Central Middlesex Hospitals) in partnership with NHS Brent and NHS Harrow, carried out a public consultation on the future of paediatric services provided by the trust between January and April 2010. The Health Select Committee spent considerable amounts of time considering the arguments for and against changes to the service and responding to the consultation and asked for a report back on implementation by the summer of 2010.
- 3.2 The main changes that were proposed during the consultation were:
- The centralisation of in-patient paediatric services at Northwick Park Hospital and the closure of paediatric in-patient beds at Central Middlesex Hospital.
 - The creation of two paediatric assessment units, one at each hospital.

3.3 North West London NHS Hospitals have provided a report on implementing changes to services, along with an independent review of the consultation process. These are attached at appendices 1 and 2. The report on progress sets out the key challenges to implement changes to the services at the hospital trust, many of which were picked up in the consultation response from the Health Select Committee. These include:

i) Clinical

- The need to agreeing service specifications for the new service model that include:
 - Clear transfer protocols between acute sites;
 - A system for monitoring waits along the whole pathway;
 - Standardised clinical pathways for community and unplanned care.

ii) Operational

- Establishing a transport service for members of public that is available on a 7 days a week basis;
- Ensuring the ambulance transport system is able to meet acceptable standards for safe and effective transfer of sick children; and
- Ensuring that there are enough beds at Northwick Park Hospital to support anticipated increase in demand.

iii) Public

- Enrolling the local sickle cell population in the design of Northwick Park Hospital inpatient service and staff education programme; and
- Engaging with local patient and carer groups to ensure proposed service changes are effectively signposted.

iv) Staff

- Undertaking appropriate staff consultation and where necessary redeployment.
- Review all consultant job plans so that staff able to rotate between the inpatient unit and the two paediatric assessment units.

3.4 The Health Select Committee has been reformed since the consultation took place, but North West London Hospitals were keen to bring this report to the committee to fulfil their obligations to the overview and scrutiny process. This also provides the newly formed committee an opportunity to understand how acute sector service reconfigurations take place and to begin the process of scrutinising acute services in the borough.

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