



Clinical Commissioning Group

Brent Health and Wellbeing Board

22 March 2016

Report from the Head of Policy and Scrutiny

Wards affected:
ALL

Request from Brent Patient Voice for representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for members of the Health and Well-being Board to consider a request from Brent Patient Voice to be represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board as a co-opted member. A copy of this request is attached at Appendix A.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to decline this request on the basis that the views of residents and patients are represented through the statutory board membership of Healthwatch Brent.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board has received a request from Brent Patient Voice (BPV) to consider co-opting a member of their organisation to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Brent Patient Voice is a recently established organisation. Their aim is to bring together individuals and patient groups interested in local health care services, with the intention of representing their views and facilitating dialogue with health service commissioners and providers to influence the planning and delivery of local health services.
- 3.2 BPV is an un-incorporated voluntary body. Its membership is composed of individuals and voluntary groups working in the social care and health field. It also encourages membership from practice based locality Patient Participation Groups.

The organisation is managed by means of a steering group elected by its members. BPV was formed following a number of structural changes to the constitutional arrangements for public engagement made by Brent Clinical Commissioning Group. These constitutional changes were implemented following the recommendations of an independent review of the CCG's public engagement procedures.

- 3.3 The statutory membership of Health and Wellbeing Boards is set out within the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Act recognises the importance of considering the views and opinions of patients and residents in the work of Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Act requires that each area's local Healthwatch are full members of the HWBB as part of the minimum membership. The legislation also provides flexibility in the membership above the minimum membership of the board to reflect local circumstances if required. The guidance also recognises that HWBBs will want to engage with a range of stakeholders, residents and patients outside of board meetings who are not formal members of the committee.
- 3.4 Healthwatch Brent is a member of the HWBB as the statutory organisation responsible for the representation of local patient and residents views on health service provision. Healthwatch Brent is commissioned by the Council to provide these functions which are governed by the national framework and guidance provided by Healthwatch England. The framework and guidance stipulates the requirements for representativeness and inclusivity which all local Healthwatch organisations should achieve.
- 3.5 As the commissioner of Healthwatch Brent, the council receives quarterly data on their public consultation activities, research into local needs and details of their membership. This ensures that the data collected on the views, needs and experiences of local health service users is robust, representative and has been informed by a range of evidence sources. Healthwatch has access to best practice advice and support from the national network of Healthwatch organisations and from Healthwatch England. Brent Patient Voice is an individually constituted voluntary organisation and is outside this statutory framework. There are many valuable voluntary groups providing a voice for local health service users and representing the interests of specific client groups. The HWBB welcomes and supports the work that they undertake and Healthwatch Brent regularly consults with these organisations as part of their role in representing patients views to the HWBB.
- 3.6 On this basis it is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board do not endorse the request for Brent Patient Voice to be a co-opted member of the Board. The work of the Health and Wellbeing Board is not confined to formal meetings and would encourage all local voluntary groups to participate in consultations and workshops as a means of informing the future direction of health provision locally and the decisions of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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