



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 20th September 2011

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Paediatric Services at Central Middlesex Hospital

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive an update from North West London NHS Hospitals Trust on their plans for the Paediatric Assessment Unit at Central Middlesex Hospital. Members will recall from the committee's previous meeting in July 2011 that the trust wishes to close the PAU. There were a number of reasons for this:
- The reduction in demand for services at the PAU following the opening of the Urgent Care Centre at Central Middlesex Hospital in April 2011.
 - The impact that reduced demand is having on staff at the PAU, who are concerned that they are becoming "de-skilled".
 - The financial demands of retaining a service that is not treating enough patients to even cover its costs – the service could lose at least £345,000 per year if demand remains consistent with current levels
- 1.2 Before the current arrangement for paediatric services were introduced by North West London NHS Hospitals Trust, a 12 week formal public consultation took place, as it was considered that the changes being proposed by the trust constituted a significant service variation. However, the trust does not want to run a 12 week consultation for this service change, but consult informally with service users instead.
- 1.3 The committee considered this issue at its meeting in July 2011 and at that stage asked to see the results of the informal consultation with service users before deciding whether to recommend whether a formal consultation should take place, or not. The committee was especially keen that consultation took place with Sickie Cell patients, and their families, as specialist services are to remain at CMH. The results of the informal consultation should be available and members should satisfy themselves that patients are happy with the proposed changes to paediatric services at CMH.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the report from North West London NHS Hospitals Trust on the future of

paediatric services at Central Middlesex Hospital and decide whether or not to recommend that a full public consultation takes place on the proposals.

Background Papers:

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