

	<p>Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29th November 2011</p> <p>Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement</p>
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
<p>Accident and Emergency Services at Central Middlesex Hospital</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 On 4th November 2011 the chair of the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a letter from North West London NHS Hospitals Trust informing her that Accident and Emergency Services are to close overnight at Central Middlesex Hospital. This service change came into effect from the 14th November 2011.
- 1.2 The letter (attached at appendix 1) states that the reasons for closure are:
 - The need to provide a safe and reliable service to patients.
 - The small number of patients using A&E, especially at night time, means that A&E staff are no longer seeing enough patients to maintain their clinical skills and expertise.
 - When doctors leave, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit permanent replacements. The onset of winter means this situation is likely to become even more challenging, and the Trust predicts a shortage of A&E doctors available during the night.
- 1.3 At this stage the closure is a temporary measure, subject to an external review by NHS London.
- 1.4 The chair of the committee has asked for this issue to be included on the committee's agenda because she is surprised that this decision was taken without informing the scrutiny committee about the possibility of closing A&E at Central Middlesex Hospital. Officers from North West London NHS Hospitals Trust have been asked to attend the committee to answer questions on this subject.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to question officers from North West London NHS Hospitals Trust on their decision to close A&E services overnight at Central Middlesex Hospital. If the committee has any

recommendations about this issue these will be passed on to the Board at North West London Hospitals Trust.

Background Papers:

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