

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
COUNCIL MEETING – 18th APRIL 2005

Items Selected by Non-Executive Members under Standing Order 40

- (a) From Councillor Sengupta

NHS Accountability

The improvements in the NHS under Labour are greatly appreciated, particularly the improvements at Northwick Park Hospital, Central Middlesex Hospital and other local hospitals. However, there is a need to build on the excellent work of the Health Overview Committee and ensure greater accountability. The Council might therefore look at additional ways to strengthen Brent Council's role in terms of scrutinising the delivery of health care locally and whether there is a need for further legislation to strengthen local authorities' scrutiny functions in relation to the NHS.

- (b) From Councillor Mrs Fernandes

Brent Youth Service OFSTED Report

The Ofsted report for Brent Youth was recently published. It showed that the weaknesses of the service outweigh its strengths. Standards achieved by young people are low and there is too much unsatisfactory youth work practice. The budget is under funded and does not provide value for money.

In the light of this damning report I request that urgent steps be taken by this Labour Council to address the key recommendations and that the extra funding allocated is used effectively for the benefit of the young population, with nearly 29% of the local people under the age of 19 years.

- (c) From Councillor Nerva

Choosing Health White Paper

The Choosing Health White Paper provides a great opportunity for local partnership to improve the health of people living and working in Brent

It is recognised that Brent Council as commissioner / provider of services and as an employer has a key role to play in delivering these objectives

It is proposed that the Executive receive a report on the White Paper. The report will include information about

- Improving the nutritional content of school dinners
- How public places in Brent are being made smoke free
- Improving the take up of physical exercise