



Health Select Committee

6th June 2007

Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

Wards Affected:

ALL

Task Groups Update: LINKs & Brent tPCT Turnaround Plan

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update in relation to two task groups conducted in last year's committee cycle, and those agreed recommendations that require further action by this committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Chair invite the Chair of Brent tPCT Public and Patient Involvement Forum (PPIF) to act as an observer to this committee, serving as a communication channel between Overview & Scrutiny and local PPIFs to encourage closer working in the run up to the creation of LINKs (Local Involvement Networks).
- 2.2 That this committee nominate members (one for each political group) to serve on an ad-hoc Task Group Panel on local NHS Finances (time limited until April 2008) to continue the work initiated by the Brent tPCT Turnaround Plan Task Group.

2.3 That the committee facilitate a public hearing as part of on-going scrutiny into the impact of proposals within the tPCT's Turnaround Plan, and that its outcomes are considered in relation to the committee's future work programme.

3.0 Detail

LINKs Task Group

3.1 At its meeting on the 4th October 2006 this committee established a task group to explore the development of LINKs in relation to overview & scrutiny and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). A task group comprised of Councillors and the Chair of the tPCT Public and Patient Involvement Forum, took evidence from partner agencies and other relevant groups. The recommendations from the task group were agreed, with further aspects being revisited by the committee once legislation is passed.

3.2 It was agreed at the meeting of the 21st March that a standing item be added to the agenda of this committee to consider referrals from local patient forums. This will take effect from the next meeting of the committee.

Brent tPCT Turnaround Plan Task group

3.3 In December 2006, this committee established a cross-party task group to examine the impact of the Turnaround Plan presented to the Board of Brent tPCT in November. The task group sought detailed information and documentation regarding proposed savings, and to consider the potential impact of proposals on the local community. A full report of its findings and recommendations was presented to this committee and agreed at its meeting of the 21st March.

3.4 The task group recommendations specific to this committee were as follows;

“That a public hearing on the proposals contained within the Brent tPCT Turnaround Plan is convened to allow residents, services users, and concerned parties to contribute to an open scrutiny of issues and to respond directly to the findings of the task group. The hearing would provide further case studies and examples of the true impact of the proposals”.

And

“That the Health Select Committee resolves to establish a task group panel on NHS finances to monitor the financial position of all local trusts and the continuing PCT deficit. Such a panel would be time limited until April 2008 and meet as required on a regular basis”.

- 3.5 Whilst task group recommendations have previously been put to this committee and agreed, members are asked to consider those actions necessary to further progress these issues.

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