



## Health Select Committee 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008

### Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Burnley Road GP Surgery

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Chair of the Health Select Committee has agreed to put this item on the Committee agenda following a request from Councillor Lesley Jones. Residents in the Dudden Hill area are concerned that the GP surgery at Burnley Road, which was closed in 2002, will not be reopened as was originally intended. Access to other health sites in the area has been problematic for some residents, exacerbated recently by the re-routing of the 226 bus whilst Thames Water was working on Anson Road.
- 1.2 Brent tPCT has set out the reasons for not reopening the Burnley Road practice in a letter to Councillor Jones, which is included as an appendix to this report.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee should consider the residents and views and the PCT's arguments for not reopening the surgery and decide whether it wishes to investigate this issue further.
- 2.2 Alternatively, members will be aware that the first task group subject for the Committee this year is access to health sites. If the Committee does not want to spend time at its meetings looking into this issue, it could be picked up by the task group instead and form part of its review.
- 2.3 The Committee should decide how it wants this issue to be taken forward.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Burnley Road surgery was closed in 2002 and since then patients have been moved to different surgeries in the area, such as the Willesden Centre for Health and Care. Although relatively close to the surgery at Burnley Road, the withdrawal of bus services in the area has made access to the Centre more difficult for some people.
- 3.2 When the Burnley Road surgery closed a commitment was made to open a surgery in the Chapter Road housing development. This has now changed and the PCT has confirmed in a letter to Councillor Jones that it has “withdrawn its interest” in the site. Indeed, the PCT believe that no formal commitment was given to the Chapter Road developers that a primary care facility would be provided, although discussions were held regarding the provision of a facility.
- 3.3 The PCT has outlined a number of reasons why it believes it would be inappropriate to develop a practice in the Burnley Road/Chapter Road area. In summary, they are:
- A commitment to the Willesden Centre for Health and Care and a wish to increase the range and availability of services there, such as x-ray and other diagnostic services.
  - The PCT would rather fully utilise current facilities before commissioning additional capacity at extra cost.
  - There are a number of other GP practices in the area which are open to new patient registrations.
  - GP’s do not wish to move from their current location.
- 3.4 The PCT acknowledges that its stance won’t be popular with local residents, a number of whom have written to the PCT about this issue.
- 3.5 At present there does not appear to be a simple solution to this issue. Local residents want a GP practice to be developed in the Burnley Road area. The PCT are unwilling to do this for the reasons outlined above (and set out in more detail in the letter to Councillor Jones). This issue has been further complicated recently by the temporary changes to the 226 bus route. However, the Chief Executive of the PCT was to meet with Burnley Road residents on the 30<sup>th</sup> June to try and resolve this issue. Details of this meeting will be reported verbally to the Committee.
- 3.6 Representatives from the PCT have been invited to the Health Select Committee meeting to outline in more detail the reasons for not developing a primary care facility in the Burnley Road area and to answer questions on this issue. Councillor Jones has also been invited to attend the Committee to outline residents concerns and answer questions.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 None

**5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 None

**6.0 Diversity Implications**

6.1 None

**7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

7.1 None

**Background Papers**

**Contact Officers**

Phil Newby  
Director of Policy & Regeneration  
[Phil.newby@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Phil.newby@brent.gov.uk)  
020 8937 1032

Andrew Davies  
Policy and Performance Officer  
[Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk)  
020 8937 1609