

The NHS in Brent, Harrow & North West London Acute Strategy

A Joint Statement

8th September 2008

The NHS in Brent and Harrow is devising its strategy in order to maximise the health and well being of local residents. In doing so it will be guided by the London-wide strategy, Healthcare for London, which has recently been consulted upon.

Over half of local NHS resources are devoted to acute care, principally at North West London NHS Trust. About 75% of the Trust's activities are commissioned by Brent and Harrow PCTs.

An important part of the PCTs' strategy therefore, is the pattern of acute care, and equally the hospital Trust is dependent on PCT commissioning decisions for its future income.

The local NHS is launching a project to develop an integrated strategy for acute services across Brent and Harrow which is consistent with plans for developing community and primary care services which is supported by clinicians, local people and their representatives. The strategy will describe how excellent and sustainable acute services will be sustained alongside expanded primary and community health services.

It will set out both how and where services are proposed to be provided in the future and will determine how services are provided from both the Northwick Park and Central Middlesex sites and will take into account the facilities required to provide first class services.

The project will present proposals that:

- are within the resources available to the local NHS;
- reflect the shift of services from secondary to primary and community care;
- enable hospital services to be delivered in a way which is clinically and financially sustainable;
- are supported by clinicians;
- are consistent with Healthcare for London;
- are capable of demonstrating to the public and their representatives that they will receive safe, accessible and high quality services.

The first phase of the project will last from September to January 2009 and will take stock of where we are now, and set out a vision of where we need to get to in five years time. In doing so we will need to involve GPs and hospital doctors, the local authorities, local people and their representatives.

As proposals emerge we will consider the need for formal public consultation with our local health scrutiny committees.

Welcoming the launch of the project Mark Easton, the chief executive of NHS Brent said, "The NHS budget continues to grow, and we have a responsibility to make sure we provide excellent care both in hospital and in the community- getting the balance right between the two will be key to the success of this project"

Fiona Wise, the chief executive of North West London Hospital Trust commented "this is an opportunity for the NHS to work with local people to re-shape services so we make the best possible use of our hospitals- and ensure they have a firm future."

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