

	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 22 February 2022
	Report from the GP Access Task Group
GP Access Task Group Final Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – GP Access Scrutiny Task Group Final Report
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the findings and recommendations of the GP Access Task Group to the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To discuss and agree the contents of the report, with particular regard to the recommendations for Brent Council's Cabinet and local NHS organisations.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can commission evidence based reviews of a policy area or function of the local authority, which are led by non-executive members. The GP Access Task Group was established to review the accessibility of general practice in Brent since the end of lockdown in March 2021.
- 3.2 It was considered timely in terms of the pressures on primary care and the transformations underway in general practice and the wider health economy, some of which have been accelerated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Importantly, the Task Group was set up in response to residents' concern about the ease with which they are able to access their local GP practice.
- 3.3 The Task Group was asked to produce a written report with recommendations to Brent Council's Cabinet and/or local NHS organisations. The Task Group's interim report was presented to the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 15 November 2021 which included early feedback on their findings. It has now concluded its work and its findings and recommendations are set out in the full report attached as Appendix 1.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 It is possible that if a recommendation was accepted and implemented that it may have financial implications for the local authority and/or local NHS organisations. Any financial implications will be reviewed by officers and reported to Cabinet for their consideration and approval.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Section 9F, Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, *overview and scrutiny committees: functions*, requires that Executive Arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are or are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
- 5.2 Section 9Fe, *duty of authority or executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committee*, requires that the authority or executive;-
- (a) consider the report or recommendations,
 - (b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take,
 - (c) if the overview and scrutiny committee has published the report or recommendations, publish the response, within two months beginning with the date on which the authority or executive received the report or recommendations.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The scrutiny review has been driven by the Task Group's desire to ensure that each resident in Brent has equal access to GP services. The consideration of health inequalities and the ways in which these can be addressed has been at the heart of the scrutiny review.
- 6.2 The scrutiny review should also consider equalities duties as part of the general duty set out in the 2010 Equality Act.
- 6.3 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need to:
- a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity; and
 - c) foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 6.4 This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 The report has been drawn up in consultation with Task Group members.

Report sign off:

SHAZIA HUSSAIN
Assistant Chief Executive