



Full Council
21 September 2022

**Report from Director Engagement,
Strategy & Communications**

Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
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:	One Appendix 1 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Programme
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update Full Council on the meetings and activities of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting of Full Council on 11 July 2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To note the updates as set out in the Chair's report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent Council has two scrutiny committees: the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. The Council also participates as a full voting member in the North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny (NWL JHOSC), this is chaired by Councillor Ketan Sheth for the 2022-23 municipal year.

3.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees. The committee's remit includes:

Adult social care; Safeguarding; Children's services; Cultural services; Education; Health; Housing; Public Health and Wellbeing.

3.3 As part of its remit set out in the constitution and its role to review the provision and operation of health services within the borough, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations, to NHS organisations.

The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's next meeting will take place on 21 September, following its first meeting of the municipal year on 5 July. Here the committee will review two papers concerning the Children and Young People's directorate. The first paper is a report on the implementation of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the impact upon High Needs Block funding. The second is a report on Early Help and Family Wellbeing Centres

3.5 The Committee will also seek to establish a scrutiny task and finish group on the topic of social prescribing. This item will be accompanied by a scoping paper which sets out the proposed terms of reference of the task group. If confirmed, the task group will conduct an in-depth analysis of the current social prescribing landscape in Brent and explore the opportunities for further developing social prescribing in the borough.

3.6 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and its members are involved in the annual budget scrutiny process. Which includes a joint budget scrutiny task group with the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. This task group was established at the 6 September 2022 Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee following confirmation by committee members.

The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC)

- 3.7 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising the plans for meeting the health needs of the population and arranging for the provision of health services in North West London. The committee reviews and scrutinises decisions or actions taken by the North West London Integrated Care System, their Integrated Care Board and other NHS service providers. The committee takes a wider view than individual local authorities and reviews issues with a pan North West London focus.
- 3.8 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprises of representatives from the boroughs of Brent, Ealing Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, and a co-opted representative from Richmond upon Thames.
- 3.9 The NWLJHOSC held its first meeting of the municipal year on the 20 July at Brent Civic Centre. The committee's work programme was agreed for the 2022-23 municipal year, and both Cllr Ketan Sheth and Cllr Daniel Crawford from the London Borough of Ealing were confirmed by the committee as Chair and Vice-Chair of the NWL JHOSC respectively.
- 3.10 At the meeting the committee reviewed an item on the proposals for an elective orthopaedic centre at Central Middlesex hospital. Members reviewed the pre-consultation exercise carried out on the proposals in North West London. Members questioned the suitability of the site at Central Middlesex Hospital and asked NHS representatives to set out rationale for choosing Central Middlesex hospital. The committee made a number of recommendations to the NHS on this item:
- i) That the NHS considers the best strategy for the consultation to reach as many people as possible, utilising key partners across North West London.*
 - ii) That the committee agrees to the NHS embarking on a formal public consultation that starts on the first week of September.¹*
 - iii) That a clear reference is made to how the findings of the consultation will input into the business case.*
 - iv) That the full business case for the centre is brought back to a later meeting.*
 - v) That the NHS provide an effective communication strategy to clearly set out the pathway from primary to secondary care for patients and residents across NW London.*
- 3.11 The committee then reviewed an item concerning the proposals to develop three community diagnostic centres in North West London, this would create three new centres in North West London where patients can have scans, tests and other diagnostic procedures outside of hospital settings. Two of these are proposed to be in Brent on existing NHS estates in Wembley and Willesden,

¹ N.B. The consultation has been delayed to the start of October

with the other at Ealing Hospital. The committee reviewed and questioned the location of the centres compared to other sites in North West London and made the following recommendations to the NHS:

i) That communications and messaging are clear for local communities; to make the distinction between the new diagnostic hub and existing diagnostic facilities at Ealing Hospital and other Community Diagnostic Centres clear.

ii) That decisions made in regards to community diagnostic centres are made with consideration of new data.

iii) That NHS colleagues help to facilitate site visits to the Ealing Hospital and other Community Diagnostic Centres where appropriate.

iv) That NHS colleagues are invited to relevant borough scrutiny committees.

3.12 The committee reviewed an Integrated Care System (ICS) update paper, presented by Rob Hurd – Chief Executive of North West London ICS. The report encompassed a wide range of relevant issues within North West London. Committee members explored how the ICS governance structures would work in practice and advocated for greater local authority representation within these structures. The committee also questioned NHS representatives on the closure of Western Eye Hospital. The following recommendations were made to the NHS on this item:

i) That consideration is given to local authorities having a substantial role in the governance of the North West London ICS.

ii) That a robust plan is developed for tackling current waiting lists in North West London.

iii) That a framework is developed for monitoring performance of subcontractors in primary care.

iv) That a financially focused paper is brought back to this committee for review.

v) That an Integrated Care System's update remains a standing item on each agenda.

3.13 The last substantive paper concerned an update on the health inequalities framework developed for NWL. The committee discussed how NHS colleagues would ensure that the engagement reached the communities who were most affected by continuing health inequalities. The committee also focused on the piece of work encouraging people into employment in the NHS and local government. Two recommendations arose from this report:

i) That NHS colleagues provide an annual update on health inequalities to monitor progress being made.

ii) That NHS colleagues commit to undertaking processes of benchmarking and utilising best practice in their approach to tackling health inequalities.

3.14 The next NWL JHOSC meeting has been postponed due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, when it is rearranged it will be hosted by Richmond upon Thames and members will review items on: primary care performance and strategy including GP access, emergency department pathways and performance including London Ambulance Service performance, a palliative care review, a North West London ICS update, and West London changes to Hope / Horizon wards.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 There are no human resources or property implications arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes,
Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Communications