

Report to: Brent Health Select Committee

Report from: NHS Brent, NHS Harrow and North West London Hospitals
NHS Trust

Date of Meeting: 7 January 2010

RE: 12 week public consultation on children's services

1. Purpose of report

To seek formal Health Select Committee (HSC) approval for a 12 week public consultation on proposed changes to children's services. The consultation is scheduled to take place from Monday 11 January to Sunday 4th April 2010.

2. Progress since the NHS' last report (9 December 2009)

As explained at the previous HSC¹ and in a subsequent letter² to the chair, the local NHS requires approval from the following bodies prior to formal submission to the HSC:

- National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT);
- Department of Health (DH) Gateway Team Review; and
- NHS London.

2.1 NCAT

All reconfiguration proposals that require public consultation are subject to clinical approval by the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT). NCAT met with key stakeholders on 8 December to assess the plans and confirmed that ours was 'a sound proposal and well considered.' The report, which is attached along with the consultation document, also noted that *'the quality of clinical engagement, leadership and passion for care shown by those interviewed was outstanding and a great foundation for future progress.'*

The report concluded that if the change is *'conducted as planned...then it will deliver the improvements needed in the quality and appropriateness of care.'*

2.2 Gateway Team Review

The DH's Gateway Review Team interviewed key stakeholders from 14 – 17 December, including the HSC Chair and Harrow's Council's health scrutiny lead. The review team noted the *'good and effective working between both Brent and Harrow PCTs and the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.'*

¹ 20th October 2009

² 11th November 2009

The review 'also found that there had been good clinical engagement and that the proposed model of care has therefore been clinically led and owned and there is a broad consensus that the proposed changes will be of benefit to patients.'

2.3 NHS London

As a result of these positive independent assessments and following submission of a robust business case, NHS London has allowed the local NHS to proceed to Health Select Committee approval.

3. Next steps

Copies of the NCAT review and the consultation document are attached for HSC approval.

The Chief Executive of NHS Brent has also written to local MPs so that they are aware of the latest position and the associated timescales.

On the basis that the HSC approve the consultation request a detailed consultation timetable will be implemented which includes two public meetings in Brent (11 February at Patidar House) and Harrow (24 February, Zoom Leisure Centre), a comprehensive publicity drive including flyers, press releases, advertisements, letters and distribution of the document to key stakeholders and public buildings. We will also offer face-to-face meetings and focus groups for key stakeholder groups.

At the end of the 12 weeks, an independent company with experience in this area will be contracted to undertake a detailed analysis of the response and prepare a report for the Acute Services Review Project Board. The PCT boards will be asked to make their final decision about the proposal before it is submitted to the Health Select Committee in summer 2010.

4. Recommendations

Brent HSC members are asked to note the progress made to date and approve the request for 12 week public consultation on the reconfiguration of paediatric services across Brent and Harrow, commencing 11 January 2010.

It is also recommended that regular updates are provided throughout the consultation process.