

Title: Request that Brent Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee consider proposals to reduce the opening hours of Central Middlesex Urgent Treatment Centre

Statement:

We the undersigned petition Brent Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to convene an urgent meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to consider NHS proposals to cut the opening hours of the Urgent Treatment Centre at Central Middlesex Hospital by 3 hours a day, 21 hours a week.

In 2014, Central Middlesex Hospital A&E Department closed following a decision from the then Conservative Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt. At the time, we were told that the opening of an Urgent Care Centre at Central Middlesex hospital would mitigate the loss of the A&E department. However, in 2019, the hours of the Urgent Care Centre were reduced when the overnight Service Centre was withdrawn. Six years down the line, we are faced with yet another reduction of the renamed Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC). The Centre currently closes at midnight but, if London NW University Healthcare Trust go ahead with their proposal, it will close at 9pm.

The curtailing of the services at the Central Middlesex hospital is even more incomprehensible because it runs contrary to the evolution of the demographics in Brent. Brent's population increased by 9.2% between 2011 and 2021. This is a significant increase which is both higher than the population in England (+6.6%) and the population of London (+7.7%). Further developments at Grand Union, Alperton, Wembley Central and Neasden stations are coming on stream so how is Brent's growing and ageing population supposed to cope with a reduction in urgent care treatment?

Justification:

We the undersigned are therefore firmly opposed to a further reduction of NHS services that will undoubtedly put more pressure on Northwick Park Hospital A&E and UTC and will lead to fewer people getting the required medical attention as quickly as necessary and call on the current plans to reduce the UTC hours by 3 hours each evening to form the agenda of a specially convened Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to be held as soon as possible.

We note that the 2019 proposals were considered by that Committee in July 2019 setting a precedent for the views of the Council and residents to be represented.

Submitted by: Zengha Wellings Longmore