



**Office of the Liberal
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**Councillor Chris Leaman
Chair, Health Select Committee**

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8th January 2010

Mr Mark Easton
Chief Executive, NHS Brent
Wembley Centre for Health and Care
Chaplin Road
Wembley
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Dear Mark

Better services for local children – A public consultation for Brent and Harrow

I am writing with regard to the Health Select Committee meeting on 7th January 2010 where the consultation plan for paediatric services provided at North West London Hospitals Trust was discussed. I can confirm that the Health Select Committee has approved the consultation plan and is happy for public consultation to begin on Monday 11th January 2010, to run until Sunday 4th April 2010. There were a number of points that the Health Select Committee would like you to take into account when carrying out the public consultation.

1. Although the future of Central Middlesex Hospital is not the subject of the consultation, the committee feel it is important that its position as a key provider within the local health service is restated during the public consultation. It is crucial that local people are aware of the services that the hospital will continue to provide and the benefits that the changes to paediatric services will bring to Central Middlesex. The committee can't emphasise this enough, but the future of Central Middlesex Hospital needs to be absolutely clear so that there is no doubt that it is to continue to be an integral part of the health service in Brent. It would be beneficial if a document could be produced stating the services that Central



Middlesex will continue to provide and services that have been added to its profile, or are likely to be added, to reinforce this message.

2. The committee notes that there are plans to hold two public meetings during the public consultation; one in Wembley and another in Harrow. The committee feels it would be appropriate to hold additional consultation events in the south of Brent, closer to Central Middlesex Hospital and in the area where patients at the hospital are more likely to come from.

3. The committee recommends that specific consultation takes place with sickle cell patients and their families, so they are given every opportunity to express their views on the proposed service changes.

4. The consultation document makes reference to polysystem developments in Harrow, but does not mention similar developments in Brent. The committee recommends that this is addressed so that people in Brent are aware of the wider changes that are taking place in the borough. This will also help to contextualise the changes to paediatric services, in particular the desire to provide more services in community settings.

5. The consultation document needs to reinforce the point that adult A&E services won't be affected by the proposed changes. Parts of the document are ambiguous on this point.

6. Finally, specific consultation should also take place with the Brent and Harrow Local Involvement Networks. This wasn't raised at the Health Select Committee meeting, but is something that I think should be part of the consultation plan.

The committee would appreciate an update at the next meeting on 17th February, explaining how these recommendations have been taken forward and integrated into the consultation plan. If it is not going to be possible to address any of these issues it would be useful to know ahead of the meeting.

I am aware that reporting back on the results of the consultation will not be possible before the council goes into purdah and the current Health Select Committee is disbanded. I have asked Andrew Davies to consult with the borough solicitor to clarify the legal position with regard to this. He'll be in touch with the legal advice in due course.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the officers from NHS Brent, NHS Harrow and North West London Hospitals Trust who attended Health Select Committee on the 7th January given the poor weather that evening.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Leaman
Chair, Health Select Committee

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