

13th January 2010

Councillor Chris Leaman
Chair, Health Select Committee
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Dear Councillor Leaman

Better Services for Local Children – A Public Consultation for Brent and Harrow

Thank you for your letter to Mark Easton, confirming the Health Select Committee's support for commencing the public consultation from 11th January. I am replying on behalf of Mark Easton as he is currently on leave.

I would like to respond to the points listed in your letter.

1. I fully concur with the Committee's recommended emphasis on the continuing role of Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH) as an integral part of Brent's health service. We have added a line (page 2 – attached) in the consultation document, promising to *'publish' a separate communication describing the future of CMH as an important provider of health services offering A&E, Urgent Care, emergency medical services, diagnostics, waiting list surgery and outpatient services*. We also now state (on page 6) that CMH will *'retain its A&E service for children as well as adults'*.
2. Further to your request we are establishing a third public meeting close to CMH and will let you have the details when they are available.
3. Following the HSC meeting, the reconfiguration team met with Dr Michele Afif (consultant paediatrician and clinical lead for the Brent Sickle Cell Service) to ensure that there is full engagement with the local sickle cell community.

A plan is being developed that includes engagement with the Sickle Cell Society, UK Thalassaemia Services, and West London Haemoglobinopathy Network and other related local groups.

4. Page 5 now includes the following text:

Brent is developing its plans for polyclinics and the first one is planned at Willesden Hospital with others to follow including potentially at CMH itself. Further details on polyclinic development will be appearing on the NHS Brent website and is the PCT's commissioning strategy plan.

5. As discussed above, page 6 now states 'CMH would retain its A&E service for children as well as adults'.
6. Members of both Brent and Harrow LINKs are active members of our Patient Public Participation (PPP) group which has been supporting the Acute Services Project Board since early summer 2009. We will also include the wider LINKs networks as part of the consultation programme.

I will provide an update on the consultation process at your next meeting on 17th February 2010.

Thank you again for all your support.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

David

(via email)

David Cheesman
Director of Strategy

Enc – Consultation Document