



Health Select Committee

17 February 2010

Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

Access to Health Sites Scrutiny Review Recommendation Follow Up

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Health Select Committee on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Access to Health Sites Task Group. Members will recall that the report was considered at the Health Select Committee in December 2008 and subsequently by the organisations to which the recommendations applied – Brent Council, NHS Brent, North West London NHS Hospitals Trust and Transport for London. Appendix 1 sets out the task group's recommendations, the original response from the organisations affected by the recommendations and an update on their implementation. It should be noted that NHS Brent intends to provide a verbal update on its recommendations at the committee meeting.
- 1.2 Officers from the four organisations have been invited to attend the Health Select Committee to update members on how the recommendations have been taken forward. It will also be an opportunity to consider other transport developments affecting health services in Brent that have occurred in the past 12 months.
- 1.3 Members should take the opportunity to question officers on progress. If the Health Select Committee is not satisfied with progress it is possible to make further recommendations on this issue. It will also be possible to carry out further follow up in 12 months time if the committee thinks this is needed.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Select Committee is recommended to:
- (i). Consider the progress in implementing the recommendations from the Access to Health Sites Task Group report and question representatives from Brent Council, NHS Brent, North West London NHS Hospitals Trust and Transport for London on issues of concern.

(ii). Make further recommendations if members are not satisfied with progress over the last 12 months.

(iii). Consider whether further follow up is needed on the task group report in 12 months time or earlier if necessary.

3.0 Detail

3.1 This report updates the Health Select Committee on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Access to Health Sites Task Group. Members will recall that the report was considered at the Health Select Committee in December 2008 and subsequently by the organisations to which the recommendations applied – Brent Council, NHS Brent, North West London NHS Hospitals Trust and Transport for London. Appendix 1 sets out the task group's recommendations, the original response from the organisations affected by the recommendations and an update on their implementation.

3.2 It is good practice to follow up overview and scrutiny recommendations to ensure they are being implemented as intended and to hear if there have been any further developments, in this case relating to public transport access to health services. Each organisation has provided an update on progress relating to the recommendations made to them. The main issues that the Health Select Committee should be aware of are:

Recommendation 12 – London Buses continue to work with the Northwick Park Public Transport Liaison Group to see if a case can be made to divert the northbound and southbound 182 buses into the hospital site.

Update – TfL has taken a corporate decision to work with boroughs through their Public Transport Liaison meetings and no longer attend the Northwick Park Public Transport Liaison Group. This is a regressive step which will be of concern to members. The hospital trust and the council will still work with TfL on public transport matters, but this group is a useful forum for considering ideas (short term and long term) to improve access to the hospital site and TfL were a crucial partner in this.

Recommendation 13 – If the northbound 182 bus cannot be diverted into the hospital grounds, then the task group hopes that an alternative solution can be found to improve access to the hospital. Ideally, the northbound bus stop should be moved closer to the hospital, next to the controlled crossing opposite the hospital entrance.

Update – An additional bus stop has been put in place on Watford Road opposite the entrance to Northwick Park Hospital for northbound 182 buses. This is a welcome development which will improve access for people using the hospital. The stop will be used from March 2010, once the speed limit on the Watford Road has been reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

Recommendation 15 – Because of the small number of buses from Brent to Northwick Park Hospital, London Buses reconsiders extending the 18 from Sudbury Town to terminate at Northwick Park Hospital. Additional buses may be required if the hospital attracts more services as a result of *Healthcare for London*.

Update – Since the review was completed there no additional bus services have been extended or introduced to serve Northwick Park Hospital. The council has also changed the way it lobbies for service changes. It will no longer suggest specific route extensions or changes unless the contract for that service is up for review. Instead it will highlight areas that aren't well served by buses and work with TfL on

solutions to area based issues. TfL has reported that they prefer this approach from local authorities.

Recommendation 16 – London Underground adds Northwick Park Underground Station to its development programme to make access to the station step free. As the station serves a major hospital and university campus and has over 3.5 million users each year, it should be given a higher priority.

Update – This recommendation has not been progressed. Nearby Harrow on-the-Hill Station has been removed from the list of stations that are a priority for step free access, suggesting that Northwick Park Station has slipped further down the list for these improvements.

Recommendation 20 - London Buses change the displays and announcements for buses stopping close to the Wembley Centre for Health and Care on Ealing and Harrow Road, so people are aware that they should alight for the GP led health centre.

Update – London Buses has tried the “alight her for...” approach on three routes, including information for NHS hospitals. Feedback from passengers have been positive and the trial is being extended to a further 20 routes.

- 3.3 The committee is very likely to have other issues that it wishes to pick up on, but these are important developments that members should consider and ask questions about. If members are not satisfied with the actions that have been taken to implement the recommendations they are able to follow up with a further recommendation to the organisation concerned. It is also possible to check on progress in the future if the committee wishes. This can be added into the work programme for the Health Select Committee in 2010/11.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

Background Papers

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