

Clinical Commissioning Group

Briefing on the Planned Consultation on Patient and Public Engagement

1. Background

The Clinical Leadership of NHS Brent CCG is and has always been committed to Patient and Public engagement and consultation. The Chair of NHS Brent CCG has one of the longest running Practice Patient Participation Groups in the country and in her role with the Harness group of GP practices set up the Harness Locality PPG, also one of the longest running Locality Participation Groups in the country.

It was in this spirit that NHS Brent CCG in its shadow form adopted a constitution that supported the development of a unique Patient and Public Engagement strategy centred on practice patient participation groups (PPGs). The process for patient feedback from the locality participation groups into the CCG was via the Equality, Diversity and Engagement (EDEn) committee. The EDEN Committee is expected to collate information from the Locality PPGs detailing trends in patient experience, feedback and inequality in access. This information would in turn be sourced from the Practice Participation Groups.

Making up the rest of this committee are representatives from some of the protected equality characteristics, these members were selected through application and interview. The aim of the EDEN committee is to:

- Provide the CCG assurance that statutory requirements around equality and diversity duties are being met within our decision making processes and going forward, to ensure the delivery of the NHS Brent CCG Equality Objectives – incredibly important to this organisation in the most diverse borough in the country
- To advise the CCG on the best ways to engage with the wide and diverse population of Brent.

The CCG is committed to commissioning equitable health services and it was expected that EDEN would enable the CCG to provide better engagement with a borough that is:

- 64% BME
- over 50% born abroad
- 20% under 20
- 54% under 35

Brent CCG is planning to engage with member practices, existing patient and voluntary groups and a wide range of stakeholders on how we can strengthen, broaden and deepen patient and public involvement in our commissioning activities. Current arrangements through five locality PPGs and EDEN are insufficient to meet our statutory duties because:

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- Large sections of the population do not engage through these conventional models. Attendance tends to come from the over 65s which make up 10% of the boroughs population. Younger people and people from particular communities tend to engage using different mechanisms
- Not all practices have PPGs yet and this does not support sufficient representation at all Locality PPGs
- To date, insufficient attention has been given to equality and diversity requirements.

A paper was put to the September EDEN committee on consulting on different models to strengthen, broaden and deepen PPI in Brent. Following discussion at the EDEN Committee, it has been agreed to include retention of a Brent-wide patient/community reference panel in all options for consultation. It was also confirmed that no changes would be made to the existing arrangements before the end of March 2014.

2. Building Engagement

We will work with EDEN members to finalise the consultation paper that will :

- Build on the existing PPI arrangements including PPGs and a Brent wide patient/community reference group. We propose to seek view on the terms of reference and membership of the Panel. For example community election/nomination of members and stronger, more explicit links to existing community/patient groups in Brent and whether it should be within or outside the formal CCG governance structure
- Include options for strengthening engagement including retaining existing arrangements; working through existing forums, service user groups, the voluntary sector, practice participation groups with topic/patient focused task and finish ;closer joint mechanisms with Brent Council under the auspices of the Health and Well Being Board.

The CCG is proposing a six week consultation period with patients, carers and community representatives through service user forums, the voluntary sector and outreach starting in November 2013. A task and finish group will oversee the consultation and support and inform the presentation of the final strategy to the EDEN Committee in January 2014.

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NHS Brent CCG Chief Operating Officer

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