



## Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Future of Brent Community Services

### 1.0 Detail

- 1.1 Members of the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be familiar with the proposals to integrate Brent Community Services within Ealing Hospital Trust and to create an Integrated Care Organisation. The new organisation will bring together community services from Ealing, Harrow and Brent, hosted by Ealing Hospital to deliver community based care services. The ultimate aim of the new organisation will be to apply for foundation trust status at some stage in the coming years.
- 1.2 All PCTs have to put in place alternative arrangements for their provider arms as they no longer able to directly provide health services. From April 2011 PCTs will only be able to commission health services. Brent Community Services does not meet NHS criteria to become a stand-alone trust and so NHS Brent has been looking at options for the future of the service. Its preferred option is integration with Ealing Hospital Trust.
- 1.3 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee met informally with Mark Easton, Chief Executive of NHS Brent and Julie Lowe, Chief Executive of Ealing Hospital Trust on the 21<sup>st</sup> September to consider the proposal. At that meeting members did not feel able to support the preferred option for Brent Community Services and asked that additional information is provided for the committee to consider the proposal in more detail at their formal meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- 1.4 The additional information requested was:
  - Information on the potential alternatives to the current proposal for BCS, including Brent based options.
  - Information on how GPs in Brent and Brent Community Services staff view the proposal.

- Information on what is happening to community services in the rest of London so that members can consider whether the proposal for Brent Community Services is unique.
- A full and clear explanation of the scoring system used to rate the six options considered by the NHS Brent executive team.

*This information has not been received in time to be sent out with the main agenda papers, but will be published before the committee meeting.*

- 1.5 As well as consulting with the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee NHS Brent has contacted the Chief Executive's office to get a council response to the proposal. The Chief Executive's letter to Mark Easton on this issue is included as an appendix to this report. As members will see, the letter sets out a number of concerns relating to the proposal.
- 1.6 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to agree its response to the proposals for Brent Community Services. In doing this it should take into account the additional information that will be provided by NHS Brent and the letter sent by the Chief Executive to NHS Brent and Ealing Hospital Trust.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirms its formal response to the consultation on the future of Brent Community Services.

### **Contact Officers**

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