

Councillor Ketan Sheth
Chair, Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Brent Council
Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley
Middlesex HA9 0FJ

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Monday 13 November 2017

Dear Councillor Sheth,

Willesden Centre for Health and Care and the Voluntary Sector

Thank you for your letter dated 6th November 2017 regarding the progress the CCG has made in respect of supporting voluntary sector organisations, working within the NHS estate in Brent and specifically at the Willesden Centre for Health and Care.

The CCG has continued to work to identify tenants for the void space across the Brent sites in line with its commissioning intentions. As you will appreciate our priority has to be ensuring the statutory services we commission can access fit for purpose and appropriate accommodation; however, where voluntary services are already in occupation at such sites, or where voluntary organisations express an interest for space, we will proactively work to establish requirements and where possible accommodate.

There has been a long standing need to provide the Burnley Practice - at the Willesden Centre for Health and Care - with an appropriately sized and located space within the building. The practice has been successful in securing NHS England funding to support its relocation within the building to space previously occupied by the Brent Association for Disabled People. The CCG is aware that some voluntary services previously operating under the auspices of BADP continue in occupation of part of this space, albeit they are not being charged.

The CCG has met with each of these organisations over the past few weeks to explain the plans, establish their ongoing space requirements and reassure the services it will seek to secure an alternative arrangement for them within the building. As you acknowledge, charging market rent is the policy of NHS PS over which we have no jurisdiction; but we will draw on this relationship and try and ensure the organisations can meet rental costs through the same or favourable terms.

Brent CCG is committed to supporting the valuable work of the voluntary sector in Brent. It is not possible to develop a formal policy for the use of NHS estate by the voluntary sector,

Chair: Dr Etheldreda Kong
Chief Officer: Rob Larkman
Chief Operating Officer (Acting): Sheik Auladin

due to the CCG having no direct property interest; however we do commit to the principles set out by Sarah Mansuralli previously, and will continue to support the occupation of void space by voluntary organisations where this space is not required for the delivery of statutory or directly commissioned services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Auladin', is positioned above the printed name.

Sheik Auladin
Interim Chief Operating Officer
Brent Clinical Commissioning Group