



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 30th May 2012

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Primary Care Update – Willesden Medical Centre, Kenton Medical Centre and Kilburn Medical Centre

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 NHS Brent has provided an update on three GP practices in Brent. Their report covers three main issues:
- Willesden Medical Centre – The possibility of relocating the practice to Willesden Centre for Health and Care.
 - Kenton Medical Centre – This centre is to close, and the report highlights the work that has gone on since the GPs gave notice that they intended to retire.
 - Kilburn Medical Centre – On the plans to disperse the patient list for this practice, which is also set to close.
- 1.2 The issues connected to Willesden Medical Centre and Kilburn Medical Centre have been previously considered by the committee. However, Kenton is a new issue. More information on this practice is set out below.

2. Closure of Kenton Medical Centre

- 2.1 At the end of April 2012, the chair of the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee received notice from NHS North West London (which is responsible for GP contract management) that Kenton Medical Centre was to close at the end of June 2012. NHS North West London has provided a briefing on this decision, setting out the reasons for the closure, the options for the patients who are currently registered at the Kenton Medical Centre, and the engagement with stakeholders on this decision.
- 2.2 There has been some concern from ward councillors about this decision. The main areas of concerns were:
- How many patients are affected by the closure of the practice?

- How patients are being helped to re-register with alternative practices, especially vulnerable patients?
- Do the GPs at the Kenton Medical Centre have specialist skills that other providers may not have on which patients rely? If so, how will these skill sets be replaced in the locality?
- Communication – ward councillors only found out about the closure in early May 2012 and they have concerns that patients may also be unaware of the plans and are seeking reassurances about this.
- Whether continuation of “expensive” patient care will be affected by the fact that most of the alternative practices are in Harrow and NHS Harrow is going through financial turnaround.

2.3 NHS North West London’s briefing on the Kenton Medical Centre is included within NHS Brent’s report on primary care for members to consider.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the primary care update and;

(i). Question officers from NHS Brent and NHS North West London on their plans for the practices in Willesden, Kenton and Kilburn.

(ii). Ensure that members are satisfied enough help is being given to vulnerable patients affected by the closures of Kenton Medical Centre and Kilburn Medical Centre, so that they are able to re-register with a GP.

Background Papers published on the agenda:

1. Primary Care Update in Brent (including NHS North West London’s briefing on Kenton Medical Centre)
2. Kenton Medical Centre Stakeholder Letter
3. Kenton Medical Centre Profile
4. Kenton Medical Centre map

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