

**NHS Brent Progress paper for  
Brent Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
on the public consultation of the procurement of new community cardiology  
and ophthalmology services**

**Introduction**

NHS Brent and its Clinical Commissioning Group presented a briefing paper to the Brent Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 regarding the procurement of new community cardiology and ophthalmology service. The purpose of the procurement is to commission community based services with equal or better patient outcomes at lower cost.

The procurement of the two services is now underway and it has reached the competitive dialogue stage where discussions about the service specification are being conducted with the three shortlisted bidders for each service. The final service specification will be issued at the end of June 2012.

The Brent Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested a further paper on the public consultation relating to the procurement activity. This paper therefore sets out:

- The aim and timeframe of the consultation.
- What has been completed to date and what further activity is planned.
- How the findings will feed in to the development of the service.
- The amount NHS Brent is paying external consultants to support the procurement process.

**Overall aim of the consultation**

The aim with the consultation is to engage Brent patients and the public of Brent at an early stage in developing new outpatient cardiology and ophthalmology services in the community.

NHS Brent wants to understand the needs of the community in Brent with regards to outpatient ophthalmology and cardiology services. The consultation is carried out to help shape the type of services that are offered to Brent patients, to ensure the services achieve greater impact and success.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks. It started on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and will inform the development, purchasing and arrangement of the two services in the community. As such, it runs alongside the development of the new services and reflects NHS Brent's aspiration to design the services in a way that will meet the needs of patients and respond to the views of the public.

## **The consultation plan**

The public and the patients of Brent will have the opportunity to feed into the consultation through the following channels:

- Patient participation group meetings across the localities in NHS Brent.
- Online web survey through NHS Brent's and the Brent Council's websites.
- Hard copy questionnaire, available through the GP practices and at the patient participation group meetings.
- Brent Citizens Panel

Brent LINKs group is being engaged in the procurement process and it is hoped that they can feed into the development of patient satisfaction areas of the specification.

To date NHS Brent has received 32 responses online and 1 paper response to the questionnaire. We expect this response rate to increase significantly as the consultation is further promoted at GP surgeries and through engagement with other groups. Two patient participation group meetings have taken place in Willesden and Harness. An email has also been sent to the 600 strong Brent Citizens Panel about the consultation, with a link to the online questionnaire.

Two more patient participation group meetings are planned for 7<sup>th</sup> June (Kingsbury) and 14<sup>th</sup> June (Kilburn).

## **Impact on the service design**

The findings from the consultation are feeding in to the design of the two services as and when it is becoming available with the final amendments to the service design to take place in the last week of June. NHS Brent is therefore able to discuss the findings directly with the shortlisted bidders ensuring patient views are reflected in the final service specification.

## **Consultancy support**

NHS Brent commissioned Private Public Ltd to support the process from January 2012 to June 2012 at a value of £107,104 + VAT. PPL have provided 165 days of support at a daily rate of £649. This is equivalent to 1.5 whole time equivalents. The borough team has been running on a 40% vacancy rate. The alternative to using PPL would have been to use interim project management support ranging from £600 to £700 per day + VAT. It is usual for procurements to incur additional costs for specialist support. These costs are usually recouped through recurrent savings achieved. The projected savings for the re-provision over the course of the 3 year contracts is £3.938 million.

**David Peck**  
**Deputy Borough Director**

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2012**