

Council: 15 April 2008

Administration Policy Item: Cllr. Helena Hart

Healthcare for London

On 30 November 2007, the NHS in London issued a consultation document, written by Professor Lord Darzi, outlining ways in which healthcare could be improved in London over the next 10 years.

The document was based on the following five principles:

- Services should be focused on individual needs and choices.
- Services should be localised where possible, or regionalised where that improves the quality of care.
- There should be joined up care and partnership working maximising the contribution of the entire workforce.
- Prevention is better than cure.
- There must be a focus on reducing differences in health and healthcare across London

Barnet Council has responded to the Consultation, highlighting the following areas of concern:

- 1) There should be a far higher commitment by the NHS to prioritise spending on preventative treatment.
- 2) Polyclinics must be in addition to existing services such as GP surgeries, they must not be at their expense.
- 3) The NHS policy of moving care closer to home must be properly financed and not “shunted” onto Council services.
- 4) More weight should be placed on improving interaction between patients and staff rather than policy changes and reconfigurations.
- 5) The consultation should have included specific measures to meet the pressures being faced by maternity services.
- 6) Resources must not be directed away from suburbs such as Barnet, which, though generally affluent, contains significant pockets of need.
- 7) Transport for London must be engaged to plan any revised transport requirements arising from new patterns of provision.

Council is adamant that any new plans for healthcare in London must not divert resources away from the Borough, and that our existing pattern of GP practices should be enhanced, not threatened.

This is particularly necessary following the reconfiguration of services at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, which will see a greater number of patients using Barnet General, putting pressure on facilities there.

Accordingly, Cabinet is requested to engage and correspond with the London NHS further to ensure that the new plans for the London NHS provide sufficient and sustainable support to healthcare services in Barnet, particularly

in view of the Borough's growing population, and the pressures put on services caused by the reconfiguration at Barnet and Chase Farm.