

Council: 7 April 2009

Motion 3.2: Councillor Helena Hart

Major Trauma and Stroke Services at the Royal Free Hospital

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

Council notes Healthcare for London's ongoing Consultation on the future of Major Trauma and Stroke Services in London.

Council is appalled that the "Preferred Option" for the Major Trauma Networks (MTNs) excludes The Royal Free Hospital as a Major Trauma Centre despite admitting that its bid was exactly equal to that of St. Mary's (their preferred Option) on both clinical standards and their ability to meet future requirements by 2012. This is also despite the very strong support The Royal Free has received both from other hospitals in the network and the support we know it enjoys from Barnet patients.

Council is equally aghast that The Royal Free was also not selected in the recommendations for the Hyper Acute Stroke Units (HASUs). Council notes this is despite Healthcare for London plainly stating that "The Royal Free would give better travel times" than their preferred choices.

Should these preferred Options on both Stroke and Trauma be implemented, Council believes the extremely large numbers of both current and future residents of Barnet who would rely on these vital services would be put at risk.

Council is also extremely concerned that the removal of these vital services from the Royal Free - and the continuance of the many and varied specialities required to support them - could lead to a gradual erosion of the long term viability of a much respected and well used Hospital which plays such a pivotal role in the provision of acute hospital services for the people of this Borough.

Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to write to Healthcare for London urgently calling for an immediate rethink of the decision to exclude the Royal Free from the list of Preferred Options for Major Trauma Centres and from its recommendations for the location of Hyper Acute Stroke Units.