

Council, Tuesday 15 December, 2009

Motion 3.3: Councillor Helena Hart

North Central London NHS Services

Council notes the ongoing discussions between the Royal Free NHS Hospital Trust and the Whittington Hospital regarding the possibility of becoming a single organisation. This is as part of the wider review of health services in the North Central London sector currently being undertaken by the NHS.

Council believes it is essential that both hospital trusts consult and work with the affected Local Authorities, especially Barnet, before merger talks progress any further. Modernisation of NHS services and planning for the forthcoming difficult funding climate may well be necessary but any further downgrading of the Royal Free would leave a significant gap in health provision for Barnet residents.

Council further notes that Healthcare for London has decided not to place either a Major Trauma Centre at the Royal Free or a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at either the Royal Free or Barnet Hospital despite the support for these hospitals from the thousands of Barnet residents who replied to the Consultation. This decision will result in far longer ambulance journeys for Barnet residents who will now have to be taken into central London - and beyond - and at a time when speed and effectiveness of treatment are imperative for successful recovery.

Council firmly believes, therefore, that the removal of any Accident & Emergency services whatsoever from either the Royal Free or Barnet Hospital is completely unacceptable as to do so would represent a quite unacceptable risk to the future health and wellbeing of the residents of the London Borough of Barnet.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to:

- 1) Request an urgent meeting with the management of the Royal Free and Whittington Hospitals before any merger talks progress further and
- 2) Write to the Chief Executive of NHS North Central London Sector seeking confirmation that no Accident & Emergency services will be removed from either the Royal Free or Barnet Hospital.
- 3) Write to the Chief Executive of Healthcare for London to request that they look again at the provision of Major Trauma and Hyper Acute Stroke Services for the residents of Barnet in the light of these latest proposals .

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.