

Full Council, 31 January 2017

Motion in the name of Cllr Phil Cohen

Support our GPs and NHS - don't attack them!

Council condemns the Prime Minister's recent attack on GPs blaming them for the crisis in our NHS and A&E departments, and her threat to reduce funding if they do not extend their hours to provide a 12 hour service, 7 days a week.

Council agrees with the statement from the Chair of the British Medical Association's GPs committee - Dr Chaand Nagpaul - that "This is not the time to deflect blame or scapegoat overstretched GP services, when the fundamental cause of this crisis is that funding is not keeping up with demand.

"This is evidenced by the fact the UK spends less on health and has fewer doctors and beds per head than other leading countries, as highlighted by the head of NHS England, Simon Stevens, only this week.

"Rather than trying to shamelessly shift the blame on to GPs, the government should take responsibility for a crisis of its own making and outline an emergency plan to get to grips with the underlying cause, which is the chronic under-resourcing of the NHS and social care."

Council notes Dr Nagpaul also said: ""We don't have enough GPs to provide a safe service at the moment. [The Prime Minister] knows that we're several thousand GPs short, she knows in fact that more than eight in ten GPs cannot provide safe care. We're trying to churn patients through our waiting rooms in ten-minute intervals, patients that need half an hour."

Council also notes that according to NHS England Barnet will need 90+ new GPs equivalent by 2022 - 60 to replace retiring GPs, 15 additional FTEs and 19 new GP/nurse FTEs.

Council further notes that in some other areas extended hours have been abandoned because of a lack of demand.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health setting out LB Barnet's support for local GPs and the service they provide, and requesting - once again - that our NHS and social care services are properly funded to meet demand.

Council also calls for the full social care precept of 3% to be applied in this year's budget to help meet the overwhelming demand for adults social care services.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if this item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it will be referred to the relevant Committee.