

## **THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

At a meeting of the **NORTH CENTRAL LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on **FRIDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2018** at 10.00 am in Council Chamber - Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT**

Councillors Alison Kelly (Chair), Tricia Clarke (Vice-Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Alison Cornelius, Lucia das Neves, Clare De Silva, Val Duschinsky and Osh Gantly

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT**

Councillors Huseyin Akpinar and Julian Fulbrook

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Samata Khatoon

**The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Julian Fulbrook. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Clare De Silva.

### **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY, NON-PECUNIARY AND ANY OTHER INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

For reasons of transparency, Councillor Pippa Connor declared that she was a member of the RCN and that her sister worked as a GP in Tottenham. However, she did not consider this a prejudicial interest and so took part in discussion at the meeting.

Councillor Osh Gantly declared that in her paid employment she had formerly worked with Richard Gourlay (who was in attendance at the meeting as Director of Strategic Development at the North Middlesex) on an Electronic Referral Service. However, she did not consider this a prejudicial interest and so took part in discussion at the meeting.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR  
CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no notifications of any items of urgent business.

**5. DEPUTATIONS**

Members received a deputation from Alan Morton, Vivian Giraldi and John Lipetz on hospital transport.

The deputees were concerned about the transport difficulties that people who currently received treatment at North Middlesex would face if they had to receive treatment elsewhere. They did not feel a 'community case for change' had been made. They made particular reference to orthopaedic services that were currently delivered at North Middlesex and might take place in Chase Farm in future, following the review of orthopaedic services. They felt that any relocation of services should be paused until transport difficulties for patients travelling by public transport were resolved.

Deputees noted that health officers had said to them when these points were raised that concerns about transport were best directed to TfL. However, they felt that it was not fair to TfL to ask them to make changes solely as a result of a unilateral decision by another public service to relocate its services.

**6. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Members expressed their disappointment that the information requested on page 3 of the minutes had not been provided. They noted they had received information, as requested on page 5, on the London panels but had not received information on their role and purpose.

Members were concerned that balance sheet information had not been provided, as requested on pages 7 and 8 of the minutes.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the minutes be approved as a correct record.

**7. JOINT WORKING BETWEEN NORTH MIDDLESEX AND ROYAL FREE  
HOSPITALS**

Consideration was given to the presentation from North Middlesex University Hospital.

Maria Kane, the Chief Executive of North Middlesex, outlined that – following the CQC inspection which had stated that the hospital needed to improve – there had been joint working with the Royal Free Hospital Group.

The Royal Free was performing well, and so they hoped to learn from their best practice. Clinical practice groups had been formed which included staff from both organisations. There had been improvements in performance flowing from this. Progress had been made against A & E targets – which were that 95% of patients be seen within 4 hours.

Ms Kane acknowledged that the hospital had been in deficit last year. Some of the deficit was due to factors beyond their control, such as PFI charges and the clinical negligence fund. The target was to reduce the deficit to the ‘control total’ of £19m.

Ms Kane highlighted that there was a need to recruit and retain staff. They had faced high staff turnover, in part due to the fact they did not pay Inner London Weighting on salaries, and there had also been claims of bullying and of rivalries between departments. They were addressing the issue of bullying and these rivalries.

Ms Kane stated that the North Midds would be deciding on whether to become a full member or to move to closer collaboration with the Royal Free at its board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Members asked what consultation had taken place on this, and were told that consultation had taken place with local authorities and CCGs.

Members expressed disappointment at the presentation and felt that it had not laid out a clear case for change.

Members heard from Caroline Clarke (Deputy Chief Executive) and Richard Gourlay (Director of Strategic Development) from the Royal Free. They echoed Ms Kane’s comments about improvements in fields like paediatric and maternity care flowing from joint working. They also said that they thought the entry of Chase Farm and Hampstead hospitals into the Royal Free Group had been positive, and that this could be repeated with the North Midds.

Ms Clarke acknowledged that both organisations had deficits, and this would mean that a full merger could not take place soon. However, sharing ‘back and middle’ office services could deliver savings. She said that she would report back to the JHOSC at a future meeting on the measures being taken to reduce the Royal Free’s deficit.

The joint working between the Royal Free and North Midds was at the ‘strategic outline’ stage and so a case for change had yet to be developed.

Members asked if the case for change would go to public consultation. Health officers said that it would be service alterations which would go out to consultation.

Members expressed the view that what the decision on 'full membership' of the Royal Free Group that the North Midds would be taking on 4<sup>th</sup> October meant was vague. They wanted to see greater clarity about what "full membership" meant.

Members were concerned about assets and land being sold to cover annual deficits rather than to redeploy funds into capital expenditure which would be beneficial for residents in the long-term.

The Committee noted the estimate that 30% of A & E visits resulted from people not being able to access primary care. They welcomed efforts being made to reduce this. They also noted that a physiotherapist had been arranged to assist the 9% of patients who presented with back pain.

Members recommended that the Royal Free and North Midds work with Healthwatch, particularly Healthwatch Enfield and Haringey, in ensuring that good consultation took place.

Members were of the view that the case for change had not currently been demonstrated, given the evidence before them. They asked to see a report on the case for change as soon as it was ready.

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) THAT the presentation and comments above be noted;
- (ii) THAT the Royal Free and North Midds hospitals work with Heathwatch on ensuring good consultation took place about service changes;
- (iii) THAT a report come to the Committee on the case for change underlying North Midds and Royal Free joint working.

**8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that dates of future meetings would be:

- Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (Camden)
- Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (Enfield)
- Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (Haringey)
- Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (Islington)

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

*North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Friday, 7th  
September, 2018*

The meeting ended at 11:35am.

**CHAIR**

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**MINUTES END**