



**North Central London CCG  
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

<b>Report Title</b>	Update on the Cricklewood Health Centre APMS Contract procurement	<b>Date of report</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
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<b>Report Summary</b>	<p>In October 2020, NCL CCG commenced a procurement process to identify a new provider for the Cricklewood Health Centre registered list.</p> <p>The procurement is now in its final stages and in February 2021, the NCL Primary Care Commissioning Committee will be approving the award of a new APMS contract to the successful bidder.</p> <p>Contract, service mobilisation (handover) and TUPE transfer of staff, will begin in February 2021, with the new provider commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.</p> <p>Patients and stakeholders were engaged with in early 2020, to establish what changes and improvement's they would like to see for the practice. The CCG last wrote to patients and stakeholders in January 2021 to provide an update on the stages of the procurement but also to provide reassurance on the relocation of the practice to a new premises.</p> <p>As part of the procurement the CCG requested the bidders to provide a solution by identifying premises that the patient list can relocate too. A criteria was set that the new site had to be within 2 miles of the existing Cricklewood Health Centre, close to where patients reside and suitable to deliver primary care services in line with the relevant premises regulations. Premises have been proposed as part of the bidder's responses and the CCG has evaluated and scored the suitability of the sites.</p> <p>At the time of writing this report the CCG is not able to share the detail of the premises until the, (1) NCL Primary Care Commissioning Committee approve the award of the new APMS contract, (2) bidders are notified and (3) 10 standstill challenge period has been concluded.</p> <p>If there is no slippage on the timelines then Patients and Stakeholders will be notified by week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, of the new provider and premises, including the timescales for relocation.</p>		

### **Cricklewood Walk-in Service**

Barnet CCG is the lead commissioner of Cricklewood Walk-in service (CWIS) and Brent CCG is an associate to the contract. They proposed the closure of Cricklewood walk-in service at the end of its contract on 30 June 2020 having undertaken a joint engagement process from 12 August to 18 November 2019 with public and stakeholders. The proposal recommended the closure on the basis that it duplicates services already available within both boroughs and does not help CCG's meet local urgent care priorities. The proposal was approved by the primary care committees of Barnet and Brent CCGs at their meetings held in public on 12 and 13 February 2020.

The CCGs approved this along with a number of recommendations to support the implementation of the decision including:

- The CCGs should continue with a programme of awareness-raising with the local population as to the alternatives to the walk-in service and the national direction of travel to develop Urgent Treatment Centres and GP Access Hubs delivered through Primary Care Networks. The programme should be guided by the outcome of the engagement process and ongoing engagement with local patient groups.
- As part of its procurement of the Cricklewood GP practice, Barnet CCG to specify a higher level of access to appointments in core hours to improve access in an area of population growth.
- The Practice's Patient Participation Group (PPG) representatives are to be invited to take a role in the procurement process to ensure that access arrangements reflect local need.
- Barnet and Brent CCGs to work together to develop approaches for reducing unnecessary A&E attendances at the Royal Free Hampstead site, by engaging with their respective GP Federations and local primary care networks (PCNs) to ensure GP extended access hubs meet the needs of the local population.

On 13 February 2020, Barnet CCG updated the Barnet Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) of the outcome of the joint engagement process regarding the CWIS noting the following;

- demand for the service has reduced year-on-year since 2016/17 alongside annual increases in the number of people attending local A&E services with primary care needs.
- although convenient, the service does not address the longer-term health needs of patients and is not aligned with the local and national aspirations for integrated models of care between urgent care and Primary Care Networks.
- there is no strategic or financial case for developing an urgent treatment centre (UTC) on the Cricklewood site
- the needs of walk-in service patients can be better met closer to home by general practice or the GP extended access hubs already in place. Access has been, and will continue to be, improved through the implementation of digital and online consultations and through NHS 111 and improved publicity
- the Health and Equality Impact Assessment (HEIA) completed in January 2020 concluded that closure of the service would overall have no disproportionate negative impact on patients.

In line with National Covid-19 guidance, Cricklewood walk-in service closed on 27 March 2020 and the re-procurement of the APMS contract for the Cricklewood GP Health Centre was put on hold until September 2020. Barnet and Brent CCGs provided final letters to all stakeholders and placed a poster at the site to notify local stakeholders of the changes and details of alternative walk-in services.

The current provider Barndoc Health Care Ltd continues to provide the service until 31 March 2021. The CCG had agreed that an additional 3,960 appointments per full year will be provided however the pandemic has shown that there has been less demand on primary care for GP appointments and therefore it has been proposed

that these appointments be phased into the GP practice from 1 September 2020 to support increasing demands over winter.

The Barnet Directorate of NCL CCG will keep the Barnet HoSC updated on progress with the re-procurement of the APMS contract for Cricklewood GP Health Centre and the work being led by the Barnet ICP Board to review same day access services.

**Estates Overview:**

There are many aspects to the estate's response to the Cricklewood Health Centre property situation. Essentially, the CCG were responding to a property situation beyond our control, as detailed below: -

- The Cricklewood health centre/Barndoc's current lease expired on 30th December 2020.
- The CCG were not the lease holder, and legally the CCG can not hold a lease for clinical services they commission.
- The proposed redevelopment of the site. The landlord is planning to redevelop the Britannia Business Centre, which the Cricklewood Health Centre occupies the ground floor of. The scheme will be a residential-led redevelopment which includes the demolition of the existing buildings.
- The current APMS contract expired on the 31/03/21, and the procurement process commenced in the autumn (2020).
- The lease term and the current APMS contract term did not align.
  - The planning application has been approved, subject to the approval of the s106 legal agreement.

**New site search:**

The CCG worked with Barndoc, and the NCL Primary Care Commissioning & Contracting Team to find a site solution, and followed the below steps:

- A short-term extension to the current lease to remain at Cricklewood Health Centre was explored.
- Primary Care Network 5 were also approached to identify any available space within their practices.
- The CCG worked with local partners (Local Authority and NHS organisation) to identify options within the public estate.
- A commercial site search was carried out.

N.B. the short-term extension at the current Cricklewood health centre was agreed while the above process was being carried out. The procurement process for the new APMS contract commenced in October 2020.

**The redevelopment of the site:**

The CCG have been liaising with the council and the landlord's agent regarding the redevelopment of the site, and have indicated that there might be a need for health space within the new development, or a s106 contribution towards the existing local health infrastructure. CCG couldn't commit to the new space at this stage, due to the fact that there were so many unknowns regarding the potential space for health, i.e., size, timescales, commercial arrangements etc. The CCG wanted to highlight that there could be a potential need for additional health space in the area so that we can obtain s106 monies from the development.

A development and commitment of this scale requires detailed planning from a strategic (clinically and financially) point of view.

	<p>Please find below an early response to the proposed planning application:</p> <p><i>'Any redevelopment of the site or displacement of the Cricklewood GP Health Centre would require consultation with NHS Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, regarding the re-provision of the health facility or a contribution to the health infrastructure'.</i></p>
<b>Appendices</b>	