

Adults and Safeguarding Committee – 15 March 2021

Public Questions and Comments (agenda item 6 refers)

The following comment has been received from Phil Cohen in relation to agenda item 7:

The Adults and Safeguarding Committee Delivery plan 2021/22 paper's section 4.2 on Bringing health and care together

This raises some very worrying issues that I as a Barnet resident and health consumer would like some clarity on. These are:

1. Plans in the Government's White Paper for an ICS NHS Body to run all health, social care and public health services with a single capped budget amount to an NHS takeover of social care. The language of 'integration' is a misnomer as the LGA has said - on the face of it there is very little local government representation on these bodies. This has disturbing implications for democratic control by elected councillors.
2. The NHS and social care operate different eligibility criteria and funding sources – what happens to them?
3. The White Paper appears to open the way to more private contracting of health and care services. Covid-19 contracts worth £19.7 billion mainly to the private sector show the direction of travel.
4. I am concerned the increased stress on digital health and technology in the White Paper means face to face consultations become the exception and undermines the vital doctor-patient relationship.

Phil Cohen