

# THE PRIMARY CARE GROUP

## COMMUNITY BARNET

Chair Barnet Health and Wellbeing Board

June 28th 2022

Dear Councillor Moore

### **Question for the Health and Wellbeing Board**

We are a group of volunteers from Community Barnet Primary Care Group. We assess patient services and experiences with the aim of improving those services to the benefit of all NHS patients. More information about the group can be found on the following website <https://communitybarnet.org.uk/portfolio/community-barnet-primary-care-group>

We, as a group, are writing to you as Chair of the HWB for Barnet because we have concerns outlined below.

The group is well aware of one of the priorities set out in the NHS 2022/23 priorities and operational planning guidance, namely to “Improve timely access to primary care – maximising the impact of the investment in primary medical care and primary care networks (PCNs) to expand capacity, increase the number of appointments available and drive integrated working at neighbourhood and place level”.

Members of the group, having looked at several publicly available documents are concerned about the number of GPs working in the borough, particularly as it states in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment the population is estimated by the ONS in 2020 to be 399,000 and is estimated to grow by 5.2% over the next 10 years and that it is stated in the Barnet Growth Strategy 2020 – 2030 that , to meet the borough housing target of 46,000 homes by 2036, equating to over 30,000 homes by 2030; this needs a wider focus beyond existing Opportunity Areas and housing estates.

It is also stated in the JSNA that Life Expectancy for both males and females in Barnet has continued to increase, a female born in Barnet in 2020 can expect to live to around 86 years, and for a male, life expectancy is around 83 years. However, Healthy Life Expectancy (the years a person can expect to live in good health) has reduced over the last few years. In Barnet, for both males and females, healthy life expectancy is around three quarters of life expectancy; suggesting for males around 21 years of their life will not be lived in good health and for females it is 22 years. This again could lead to a greater demand for services to support older populations living in the borough”. It is also mentioned that the proportion of residents aged over 65yrs will increase faster.

In the document titled General Practice Clinical Capacity in Barnet dated 23rd September 2015 it states “To respond to the population growth in the Aerodrome Road/Colindale Avenue area, a new health centre and GP service is being planned to over time serve 15,000 patients”. Also” Existing health centre at Grahame Park due for demolition in 2017/18 when the ‘Plot 11’ area of Grahame Park Concourse is redeveloped → Site currently houses Everglade Practice and Park View MC (branch). New centre planned opening 2018-2020

(subject to land availability)". Referring to development in the Brent Cross area it stated "Significant developments in the immediate and surrounding area of Brent Cross and Colindale will put additional pressure on the capacity of the surrounding GP practices as more people move into the area. → Part of the re-development of the Brent Cross locality should incorporate a new health facility → There is also capacity for further growth in the Cricklewood HC in the south of the borough". It concluded that "Based on the predicted population growth of 26,991 residents over the next 7 years in Barnet it is estimated that Barnet will need an additional 15 GP FTE and 19 GP and Nurse FTE combined".

The information in the above paragraph has been apparently updated in a document entitled Draft Barnet Infrastructure Delivery Plan CIL Submission Update 12 August 2021. This outlines the following:

"Colindale Regeneration zone – A new primary Care and Community Care facility: • Estimated Scheme Completion: 2023 – 2024

Brent Cross Regeneration zone – A new Primary and Community Care facility: • Estimated Scheme Completion 2026-28"

It does not mention Grahame Park.

**The question we wish to ask is three parts:**

- A) What is the number of GP Full Time Equivalents practising in Barnet currently expressed as a total number and number per 100,000 residents?
- B) What is the number of GP Full Time Equivalents required in Barnet in 2030 to maintain the resident/GP ratio and who is responsible for this calculation?
- C) What is the plan to get from A to B?

The group is looking forward to receiving the response from HWB and, in advance, thanks you for it.

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Co - Chair