

## **1. Primary Care (GP) Access Task and Finish Group**

Membership: Cllr Caroline Stock (Chair), Cllr Matthew Perlberg, Cllr Richard Barnes, Cllr Gill Sargeant, Cllr Nick Mearing-Smith

The Task and Finish Group has held five meetings between July 2023 and February 2024, gathering evidence from the ICB, Barnet Healthwatch, the Barnet Patient Participation Network, GP Practices in Barnet, PCN clinical directors, community groups and the voluntary and faith sector.

Clarification has been provided on the structures and pressures on the system and detailed question and answer sessions held at GP site visits. The recommendations are:

- Improving communication for all residents on the changes in Primary Care, bearing in mind particular problems of groups who may be digitally excluded
- Learning from the best Practices in Barnet and following up on progress of the ICB which will be working to meet the requirements of the NHS National Access Improvement Plan<sup>i</sup> (triage, cloud-based telephony, enhanced appointments and more).
- A commitment to closer examination of the funding for Barnet given its older population relative to other Boroughs, and its large number of care homes and importer of residents to care homes from other boroughs. There was an acknowledgement from the ICB that an outdated funding formula is used and that levelling up across NCL may be needed.
- A recommendation that dates for different improvements and final implementation will be requested the ICB and that the Group is kept updated if deadlines are not met. The ICB noted that access is the single most important thing the Primary Care Team is focused on at present, with a view to all Barnet Practices having a full telephony service by March 2024. The Group should follow up to check the upgrading to iCloud telephony is completed within the deadline.

The Task and Finish Group has convened an additional meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May to finalise the report recommendations. The report will be presented to the Adults & Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **2. Discharge to Assess Task and Finish Group**

**Members:** Cllr Phillip Cohen, Cllr Tony Vourou, Cllr Gill Sargeant.

The first meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February with NHS and LBB senior system leaders, and a second meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February with presentations from the British Red Cross and Barnet Healthwatch.

Further meetings are being planned with Barnet Hospital to discuss hospital discharge coordination, and the Group planned to also speak to patients and carers on their experiences during March and April 2024. The Principal Scrutiny Officer has been in contact with relevant partner organisations and will schedule meetings and site visits during May

and June 2024. There has been a delay in receiving meeting date proposals from partner organisations and the Principal Scrutiny Officer is following up to ensure dates are scheduled as soon as possible.

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<sup>i</sup> [Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/delivery-plan/)