

## Appendix C

### North Central London Sector Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Amended Terms of Reference

1. To engage with relevant NHS bodies on strategic sector wide issues in respect of the commissioning and provision of NHS health services across the area of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington
2. To scrutinise and respond to stakeholder engagement, the consultation process and final decision in respect of any sector wide proposals for reconfiguration of health services in the light of what is in the best interests of the delivery of a spectrum of health services across the area of, taking account of:
  - The adequacy of the consultation being carried out by the health bodies including the extent to which patients and the public have been consulted and their views have been taken into account
  - The impact on the residents of those areas of the reconfiguration proposals, as set out in the consultation document
  - To assess whether the proposals will deliver sustainable service improvement
  - To assess whether the proposed changes address existing health care inequalities and not lead to other inequalities
  - The impact on patients and carers of the different options, and if appropriate, which option should be taken forward
  - How the patient and carer experience and outcomes and their health and well-being can be maximised whichever option is selected
  - Whether to use the joint powers of the local authorities to refer either the consultation or final decision in respect of the North Central London Service and Organisation Review to the Secretary of State for Health.
3. To respond, where appropriate, to any proposals for change to specialised NHS services that are commissioned on a cross borough basis and where there are comparatively small numbers of patients in each borough.
4. The joint committee will work independently of both the Executive and health scrutiny committees of its parent authorities, although evidence collected by individual health scrutiny committees may be submitted as evidence to the joint committee and considered at its discretion.
5. The joint committee will aim work together in a spirit of co-operation, striving to work to a consensual view to the benefit of local people”

5.1 In terms of the procedural arrangements, the following is proposed:

#### *Representation*

Each borough will be entitled to two representatives on the Committee. In the event of a Member being unable to attend, a deputy may be appointed by the borough concerned.

#### *Chair*

A Chair and a Vice Chair for the JHOSC shall be appointed at its first meeting of each Municipal Year. The Chair and the Vice Chair shall come from different boroughs.

#### *Quorum*

The quorum for the JHOSC will be one Member from four of the participating authorities. In the event of a meeting being inquorate, it can still proceed on an informal basis if the purpose of the meeting is merely to gather evidence. However, any decision making is precluded.

#### *Voting Rights*

Due to the need for recommendations and reports to reflect the views of all boroughs involved in the process, the JHOSC shall aim to operate by consensus if at all possible. A vote shall only be taken if every effort has been taken to reach agreement beforehand. Voting will be on the basis of one vote per authority. In the event of a tie, there shall be no provision for a casting vote on behalf of the Chair and the vote shall be deemed to have been lost.

#### *Dissent and Minority Reporting*

It is recognised that issues that emerge during the work of the JHOSC may be contentious and there therefore might be instances where there are differences of opinion between participating boroughs. The influence of the JHOSC will nevertheless be dependent on it being able to find a consensus. Some joint committees have had provision for minority reports but these powers can, if used, severely undermine the committee's influence. Whilst such provision can be made for the JHOSC, it is agreed that use of it is only made as a last resort and following efforts to find a compromise.

#### *Writing Reports and Recommendations*

The responsibility for drafting recommendations and reports for the JHOSC is shared amongst participating authorities.

### *Policy and Research Support and Legal Advice to the Joint Committee*

This will be provided jointly by all of the participating authorities. Each authority is responsible for supporting its own representatives whilst advice and guidance to the JHOSC will be provided, as required, through liaison between relevant authorities. Consideration could be given by the JHOSC, in due course, to the provision of external independent advice and guidance, should it be felt necessary. This could be of benefit if it enables the joint committee to more effectively challenge the NHS and may be of particular assistance in addressing issues of a more technical nature, where lack of specific knowledge could put the joint committee at a disadvantage.

### *Administration*

Clerking responsibilities are shared between participating Councils, with the borough hosting a particular meeting also providing the clerk.

### *Frequency and Location of Meetings*

Meetings will rotate between participating authorities for reasons of equity and access. The JHOSC will meet four times per Municipal Year. However, an additional meeting may be called by the Chair in consultation with the Vice Chair or if requested by at least four participating boroughs.

### *Servicing Costs*

In the current financial climate, it is unlikely that it will be possible to meet any costs arising from the work of the JHOSC except on an exceptional basis. Any such financial commitments will need to be agreed beforehand and the cost split between the participating authorities.