



Haringey Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 April 2009

Report Title: Consultation on Urgent Care in Islington

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): N/A

Report of: Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: N/A

1. Purpose

1.1 To receive a presentation from representatives from NHS Islington on their consultation concerning Urgent Care in Islington. A copy of the consultation document is attached.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1 N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Committee receives the presentation by NHS Islington.

3.2 That the Committee comments, as appropriate, on the proposals in the consultation document and, in particular, its implications for Haringey residents.

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4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

4.1 Background Papers:

None

5. Report

- 5.1 NHS Islington has recently undertaken a formal consultation on the provision of urgent care within the Borough. A copy of the full consultation document is attached.
- 5.2 A key part of this is the establishment of an urgent care centre at the Whittington Hospital, which provides services for a large percentage of Haringey residents, especially those living in the west of the Borough. One proposal involves tendering for an urgent care centre on the Whittington site. The purpose of this will be to meet the needs of people presenting at A&E whose treatment can be more effectively dealt with by primary care practitioners, such as GPs and nurses. This is hoped to reduce the pressure on A&E and assist it in dealing effectively with genuine medical emergencies.
- 5.3 Once the urgent care centre is established, patients will not be able to directly access A&E. Access will be only by:
- Ambulance
 - GP referral
 - Fast tracking from the urgent care centre.
- 5.4 Whilst the Whittington Hospital are favourable to the principle of the setting up of the urgent care centre, they are not comfortable with competitive tendering taking place for a service on their site. They have been invited to attend the meeting to put their case.
- 5.5 The formal consultation on the strategy took place between 5 January and 30 March. There is a requirement for NHS bodies to consult relevant overview and scrutiny committees on proposals for change that could be considered significant. Although the proposal was reviewed by Islington Overview and Scrutiny Committee, no formal approach was made to Haringey's Committee for a view. However, Islington PCT have accepted that the Committee should be given the opportunity to submit its comments.