

Haringey and Islington KONPs Deputation on GP Access to NCL JHOSC,

12 March 21 SUMMARY

Haringey and Islington KONP are extremely concerned that the “temporary Covid GP Access policy” is becoming a permanent policy in NCL and risks damaging health outcomes for vulnerable sectors of the population ie the elderly, the disabled, those with MH issues, people with Learning Difficulties and Autism, the BAME community and Migrants .

We believe there are 3 Issues for the JHOSC to consider:

- The clinical need for, and the right to face-to-face access to a GP /clinician
- That the policy of “digital first” is detrimental to the long term health and wellbeing of NCL residents, most particularly to vulnerable groups with protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act (2010)
- Problems of equity with GP access systems, now and in the future

(Details of our concerns on the attached document)

HKONP and IKONP have the following questions for the JHOSC:

- 1/ Can JHOSC seek assurances from NCL CCGs that face-to-face GP appointments will be reintroduced as the norm post lockdown?
- 2/ Will the CCG acknowledge patients’ right to face-to-face appointments for both primary and secondary care post lockdown, and publicise this at every GP surgery and on their website?
- 3/ when will the results of the Health Impact assessment be available and will it cover all protected groups and include the elderly, disabled people, people with MH issues, people with LD and Autism, the BAME community, migrants and victims of domestic abuse?
- 4/ what action is the CCG taking to avoid any potential discrimination resulting from this policy on the above groups?
- 5/ How will NCL CCGs make sure that isolated, vulnerable people/elders who are digitally excluded will not disproportionately suffer if they cannot contact their GP by telephone in a timely manner?
- 6/ how will CCGs deal with problems of access to GPs now, and in using e-Consult?
- 7/ How will Haringey CCG address the privacy concerns raised by the use of Public Voice volunteers and/or public libraries as access points in Haringey?
- 8/ CCG to give more details Initiative on digital access from Whittington etc.
- 9/ What are the numbers of face to face appointments available now in NCL ?

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