

NHS Haringey response to questions from M Petrou

Q1: Is the PCT's description of the Laurels/St Ann's as one of the three Polysystem hubs misleading or optimistic, as the too small Laurels is bursting at the seams and the PCT is reluctant to invest in St Ann's?

As the document makes clear, we have drawn up transitional arrangements for how we will increase the provision of community based health services, utilising our health centres and other community buildings. Depending on finances and local health needs, NHS Haringey will always look to improve the provision of healthcare, either by improving existing services or investing in new ones. This includes the provision of services at St Anne's.

Q2: Does the PCT agree that whilst the proposed spurs and Hornsey Central Health centres are some distance apart from their respective hospital partners the N. Mid and the Whittington, and that these two hospitals are fully functioning but the Laurels and the St Ann's sites are close to each other and that St Ann's is not the fully functioning hospital it once was (or could be)?

As we state in response to question 1, we are constantly looking to improve services and invest in ones, depending on the resources available and prioritising needs. This includes the provision of new services either at St Anne's or at The Laurels, as appropriate.

Q3: If the PCT is genuine about its pledge to consult and engage as it claims on page 6 of the report, and is serious about St Ann's hospital as the Laurel's partner, then how can it justify moving five services/clinics from St Ann's to the Laurels without any public consultation whatsoever?

There will always be occasions when NHS Haringey will make operational decisions about the provision of services, in order to ensure these services are delivered efficiently and effectively. This will not always necessarily involve public consultations.

Q4: On page one of its report the PCT claims the former commissioning Collaboratives are "extremely successful" and "fully engaged" and believes they will be able to work with the local authority to commissioning services. But is the PCT aware of any members of the Collaboratives, any GP practice or any individual GP or group of GPs having any concerns or doubts?

NHS Haringey holds regular discussions with GPs and clinicians about the provision of services in Haringey. This involves addressing any concerns GPs may have about the delivery of services to meet the health needs of their patients.

Q5: In relation to question 4, is the PCT aware of any other health professional (s) or hospital staff who have concerns or doubts about GPs ability to commission services minus the PCT post and paid 2013?

The Government has published its proposals on how it wants to improve healthcare under the NHS. As it develops its proposals, it will obviously want to address any concerns raised in the consultation process, including concerns about how GPs will commission services in the future.

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