



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.1]

Scrutiny Review – The Laurels

On 29 November 2010

Report Title: Scrutiny Review - The Laurels – Scope and Terms of Reference

Report of: Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer : Robert Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer Tel: 0208 489 2921

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: **N/A**

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

1.1 To approve the draft scope and terms of reference for the scrutiny review on the Laurels.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1 N/A

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and/or other Strategies:

3.1 These are as follows:

- Council Plan: Encouraging lifetime well-being at home, work, play and learning
- Sustainable Community Strategy outcome: Healthier people with a better quality of life

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the scope and terms of reference for the review be approved.

<p>5. Reason for recommendation(s)</p> <p>5.1 Included within the body of the report.</p>
<p>6. Other options considered</p> <p>6.1 Included within the body of the report.</p>
<p>7. Summary</p> <p>7.1 A scrutiny panel has been set up to consider the issues relating the Laurels This report proposes a scope, terms of reference and a work plan for this review.</p>
<p>8. Chief Financial Officer Comments</p> <p>8.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and confirms that the recommended scope and terms of reference should not create any additional financial commitments. Furthermore, as set out in section 13, the potential financial implications of any recommendations/outcomes of the review will be considered at that time.</p>
<p>9. Head of Legal Services Comments</p> <p>9.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no specific comments to make.</p>
<p>10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments</p> <p>11.1 There are significant health inequalities that exist within Haringey with a clear correlation between ill health and deprivation. In addition, some ethnic minority communities have poorer health outcomes than the wider population. Changes to health provision are likely to have disproportionate affect on these sectors of the local population.</p>
<p>12. Consultation</p>

12.1 Consultation will be an integral part of the review and relevant stakeholders have been invited to attend.

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1 The cost of undertaking the scrutiny review is provided for in the budget for overview and scrutiny. In addition, value for money issues and any potential financial implications arising from the review will be considered in liaison with the service finance lead.

14. Use of appendices/tables and photographs

14.1 N/A

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

15.1 Background papers are as follows:

16. Report

Introduction

16.1 The Laurels Healthy Living Centre opened in 2004 and aimed to enhance the quality of health care facilities in the area for both service users and providers. It provided purpose built and state of the art surgery space for two GP practices. It also provided facilities for health visitors, speech therapists and district nurses. In addition, the Laurels generated an income that funded community health projects, such as complementary therapies, advocacy and counseling.

16.2 It is one of NHS Haringey's main health centres – the others being Hornsey and Lordship Lane. It serves the population of south Tottenham, which has a growing population with a high number of black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. There are particularly high levels of diabetes, lung cancer and other respiratory diseases, liver disease and obesity.

16.3 Services currently in the Laurels are:

- Two GP practices with a total list size 14,000 and which continues to grow
- Phlebotomy
- Spirometry
- Health Visitors
- Speech and language services
- District nurses – base only
- BCG – neonatal

- IAPT
- Podiatry
- Dietetics
- DESMOND (Diabetic self care)

Lease and Ownership

- 16.4 The building is owned by Circle 33 Housing Association, who lease it to the London Borough of Haringey. The Council in turn sub leases it to NHS Haringey, and who sub underlease part of the Health Centre to the Bridge Renewal Trust. There are also have separate sub leases with the two GP practices.
- 16.5 At the moment, it is unclear what will happen to the ownership of NHS Haringey's property portfolio when GP commissioning is introduced, as decisions over property have yet to be taken. It is thought likely that the lease will be transferred to whichever new organisation is formed to manage property on behalf of the new GP commissioning consortia.
- 16.6 NHS Haringey manages and maintains the whole of the health centre. The Bridge Renewal Trust occupy certain areas of the building and within the terms are responsible for their area. A Laurels project group meets monthly to discuss operational and developmental issues. The meetings are attended by representatives from NHS Haringey, the community services provider side organisation, the two GP practices, the Bridge Renewal Trust and local residents. The Council has no role in managing the Laurels as the building is sub let to NHS Haringey.

GP Practices

- 16.7 The Centre originally accommodated two GP practices, one of which - The Laurels PMS Practice – was directly managed by NHS Haringey. The Primary Care Strategy identified the Laurels as one of its Neighbourhood Health Centres from which it wished to deliver extended hours and improved primary care services. NHS Haringey, as part of its Investment Strategy, therefore decided to extend and improve the services provided by the Laurels PMS Practice. This included:
- 12-hours opening (0800 – 2000) 7 days a week;
 - Pre-booked appointments & a walk-in service for registered patients; and
 - Walk-in service for people not registered at The Laurels
 - Extended services
- 16.8 In so doing, the also complied with the Department of Health requirement for every PCT to procure a “GP-led Health Centre” by April 2009. It was required to undertake an open procurement process for the service. The outcome of this was that the contract was awarded to a partnership between LHS Ltd (a consortium of two Haringey GP practices) and Camidoc.
- 16.9 The issue of the GP contract was discussed at the special Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 October. It was noted that LHS Ltd had informed NHS Haringey

that, because of uncertainty around Camidoc's financial situation, they were no longer in a position to continue to provide their service at The Laurels. They therefore wished to hand the contract back to the PCT on 15th September 2010.

- 16.10 NHS Haringey is currently negotiating with the medical director at the Laurels to continue to provide services until alternative arrangements can be put in place. In order to ensure patient safety and continuity for the patients registered at the practice, NHS Haringey intends to put in place a temporary emergency contract until March 2011 at the earliest. The contract will be for core GP services and run by a local GP.
- 16.11 Under the previous contract, an 8-8 seven days a week walk in service was provided. However, it was noted that information from the Centre shows that it was used by a small number of local patients, most of which were already registered with the practice or neighbouring practices. NHS Haringey has therefore decided to no longer provide the 8-8 and is proposing to not establish a GP led health centre at the Laurels.

Pharmacy Provision

- 16.12 In January 2010 NHS Haringey received an application from the Bridge Renewal Services to open a pharmacy in the Laurels. It considered the application under the regulatory test of whether a pharmacy would be necessary or expedient in order to secure adequate pharmaceutical services in a particular neighbourhood. NHS Haringey received many letters of support, including local residents, two Haringey Councillors and the local MP. There were also many letters from local pharmacies opposing the application. The application was declined on the grounds that there were already sufficient pharmacies in the neighbourhood.
- 16.13 In May 2010, a second application was received for a pharmacy to open under an exemption category whereby a pharmacy opening for more than 100 hours per week is exempt from the regulatory test described above. NHS Haringey had no grounds to refuse this application, which was approved in September 2010.

Scope and Terms of Scrutiny Review:

- 16.14 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has set up a specific review to look at a range of number of issues related to the Laurels. In particular, it will consider the following:
- Re-tendering of GP contract
 - Future of urgent care service/opening hours
 - Range of services provided
 - Management of the centre
 - The pharmacy

- 16.15 It is proposed that the terms of reference be as follows:

“To consider issues relating to the development and of health and social care services at the Laurels Neighbourhood Health Centre and to make recommendations thereon to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for submission to NHS Haringey”

16.16 The review panel will comprise of all of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It will have one formal meeting, which will take place on Monday 29 November.

Stakeholder Engagement

16.17 The Panel will aim to receive evidence from key local stakeholders in order to inform its deliberations. These include NHS Haringey and the Bridge Renewal Trust, who have been invited to attend the meeting. In addition, key local resident associations and relevant patient and user groups have been invited to attend