

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee****On 12 July 2006**Report Title: **Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) Financial Plan 2006/7**Report of: **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**Wards(s) affected: **All**Report for: **Non-Key Decision****1. Purpose**

To report further on the role of the Committee in considering the savings proposals that have been made by Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust in respect of Greentrees and the Family Planning Service.

**2. Recommendations**

That the Committee consider and comment on the proposals relating to Greentrees and the Family Planning Service as outlined in the attached papers from the TPCT.

Contact Officer: **Rob Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer**Tele: **020 8489 2921**E-Mail: **rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk****4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

Not applicable

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

The background papers relating to this report are:

Haringey Health Scrutiny Protocols  
Centre for Public Scrutiny – Substantial Variations and Developments of Health Services

These can be obtained from Robert Mack – Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on  
020 8489 2921,  
7<sup>th</sup>. Floor, River Park House

## 6. Report

- 6.1 As previously mentioned, in common with many NHS trusts, Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust is currently facing financial pressures and has therefore had to make budget reductions. The Board of Haringey TPCT has been considering a range of proposals during recent months affecting a number of service areas. The options considered by the Board were aimed at minimising the effects on patients. Detailed discussion papers on each area service area affected have been issued. A range of responses have been received and taken into account by the Board in making its final proposals. Any amendments to the proposals would require compensatory savings to be identified elsewhere.
- 6.2 NHS bodies have a requirement to consult with patients and the public, including a specific duty to consult with Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Discussions have taken place with the TPCT on their proposals and, in particular, if any should be described as constituting a “substantial variation or development” to services. Any proposals that are considered to fall into this category are subject to a statutory consultation process with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.3 Following detailed discussions with TPCT, it was agreed by the Chair in consultation with the Opposition Lead Member for Overview and Scrutiny, under the urgent action procedure, that the proposals relating to Greentrees and the Family Planning Service were considered by the Committee to constitute “substantial variations” to services.
- 6.4 These two areas have been considered to be “substantial variations” due to their possible affect on accessibility to services, the impact on the wider community, the potential number of patients affected and the changes that the proposals entail to the delivery of local services. There is also concern within the local community about these proposals and it is noted that the Patient and Public Participation Forum for Haringey feels that those in relation to Greentrees constitute a significant service change.
- 6.5 The Board of Haringey TPCT meets on 26 July to finalise its decisions in relation to its budget. Any delay by the TPCT in making its decisions will impact adversely on its financial position and increase the likelihood of further budget reductions being needed. It has been noted that:
- There has been wide consultation undertaken locally by the TPCT with a range of stakeholders and this is still ongoing.
  - The public consultation that will be taking place in addition to the consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee has now been extended until 17 July.

- Earlier consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was hampered by the local elections and the “purdah” period.
- 6.6 It has therefore been agreed that there will be a shorter timescale than the full 12 week consultation period with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that best practice recommends in respect of “substantial variations”. Taking these factors into account, comments must be submitted by the Committee to the TPCT by 25 July in order that they may be taken into account by the Board at their meeting on 26 July.
- 6.7 The meeting of the Committee which took place on 3 July provided the TPCT with an opportunity to put its case for the proposals. This evenings meeting has been arranged to look at the “substantial variations” in more detail. A range of stakeholders have been invited to attend and the Committee will be able to question them on their views. At the time of writing, the Lead Clinician for Medicine for the Elderly at the North Middlesex Hospital and Age Concern have indicated that they will be attending.
- 6.8 The aim of formally consulting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on “substantial variations” is to consider:
- Whether, as a statutory body, the Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
  - Whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the Trust has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation; and
  - whether a proposal for changes is in the interests of the local health service.
- 6.9 Following consideration of all of the issues, the Committee will need to decide on an appropriate response to make to the Trust. The response will need to explain the process that the Committee has undertaken, and the evidence that has been considered, including identifying the witnesses that have attended. If the Committee is unhappy with the process or proposals, and discussion during the consultation process has not enabled the Committee and the Trust to reach agreement, the written response should summarise this and include recommendations and suggestions for reaching a consensus.
- 6.10 The Committee has the power to make referral to the Secretary of State if it feels such action to be appropriate. The Committee is only expected to make a referral as a last resort and after all steps have been taken to try and resolve the issues at a local level.
- 6.11 It should be noted that any proposals *not* considered to be substantial can still be commented upon by the Committee although it will not have the same statutory powers of referral in respect of them.
- 6.12 Papers from the TPCT in respect of Greentrees and the Family Planning Service are attached. The detailed discussion papers in respect of all of the other areas

where changes are proposed can be accessed via the Haringey TPCT website;  
<http://www.haringey.nhs.uk>.

## **7. Comments of Head of Legal Services**

- 7.1 Regulations under S.7 of the Health & Social Care Act 2001 require NHS bodies to consult relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees on any proposals for substantial variations in health services. This duty is additional to the duty of involvement or consultation under S.11 which means that other stakeholders should be consulted and involved in addition to OSCs.
- 7.2 Although Cabinet Office guidelines recommend that full consultations should last a minimum of 12 weeks, OSCs and NHS bodies may reach agreement about a different timescale for consultation. Members should therefore satisfy themselves that the quality of consultation and timescale set out in the report are adequate.

## **8. Equalities Implications**

- 8.1 One key area that the Committee will need to consider when making its comments will be whether the proposals by the TPCT affect all members of the community equally.