

Report Title: **Developing World Class Primary Care In Haringey – Haringey TPCT Primary Care Strategy**

Report of: **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non-Key Decision**

1. Purpose

To consider and comment on the latest update of the Haringey Primary Care Strategy

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the latest version of the Primary Care Strategy and the proposed ongoing consultation plans be noted
- 2.2 That the Committee submit comments thereon, as appropriate, and consider further engagement with the TPCT as part of the ongoing consultation process.

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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:

Response by the Overview and Scrutiny to Haringey Primary Care Strategy – October 2007

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

6. Report

- 6.1 Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) originally set out its plans for the future development of primary and community health services in Haringey in June 2007. Its Primary Care Strategy proposed fundamental changes in the way in which primary care services were delivered within the Borough. Given the significance of the proposed changes, they were considered to represent a “substantial variation” to local health services by the Committee. There was therefore a requirement, under Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, for the TPCT to consult formally with the Committee on this issue.
- 6.2 The Committee produced a detailed response to the strategy during the autumn. Whilst it was satisfied that the TPCT had engaged appropriately with Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that the TPCT had also provided sufficient opportunities for the public to participate in the strategy consultation process, it was of the view that the consultation did not provide sufficient detail to allow the public or the Panel to fully appraise the proposals or assess the likely impact of the planned changes.
- 6.3 The Committee had a number of additional reservations about the strategy, which were outlined in the response.
- It was noted that the current distribution of primary care services within the Borough was effectively unplanned. As the strategy lacked details as to how the nature, level and location of primary care services would be directed across the Borough, the possibility existed that those areas which are poorly served by primary care services and experience significant health inequalities would continue to be so. The Committee was therefore of the opinion that the TPCT should adopt a planned approach to the future structure and location of primary care services so that general practices were located where the need was greatest and in a manner that addressed health inequalities. Any incentives or encouragement that were to be offered to GP practices to relocate to super health centres should therefore be applied selectively so that services were distributed according to these principles.
 - Further information was required on the proposed locations of super health centres and how these ‘hubs’ would operate and interact with remaining general practice ‘spokes’. In addition, more detail needed to be provided on the anticipated number of GP practices that would be within the super health centres, as well as those remaining outside. Without this information, the Committee indicated that it was difficult to assess the full implications of the strategy and therefore provide a meaningful and constructive response.
 - The Committee established from its visits to health centres in other London boroughs that having multiple GP practices in one building did not necessarily lead to either greater collaborative working or longer opening hours for

patients. This would be a challenge for the TPCT to address due to the semi independent nature of GPs and further work would have to be undertaken to ensure that it became a reality.

- The Committee had reservations about the financial framework to support the development of the Primary Care Strategy. Whilst it was clear that resources would be released through the centralisation of GPs in super health centres and through commissioning of secondary services through primary care, realistically these would only yield additional revenue in the medium to long term. Given the scale of the proposed developments, the Committee were sceptical that the level of new investment (£3.7 million) would be sufficient for delivering fully on the strategy. The Committee considered that a more detailed financial plan would be needed to be developed to fully appraise its viability.
- There was a need for there to be a clear monitoring and audit process to make sure that the planned outcomes were achieved, with full community involvement.

6.4 Despite these reservations, the Committee indicated their full support for the need to develop and improve primary care services in Haringey, particularly in the need to shape and deliver services to areas of greatest need but was unable to conclude that the principles and objectives of the Primary Care Strategy would necessarily be fulfilled and delivered on the basis of the plans or documentation submitted. The response stated that, until the additional information referred to was received, the Committee was unable to conclude that the proposals were in the interests of local health services.

6.5 The TPCT considered all the responses received as part of the consultation process and responded with a report to their January Board meeting. This outlined a number of significant proposed changes, which were to be included in the final strategy when it was produced. The report stated that the final strategy would be produced after taking into account the outcome of the “Healthcare for London” consultation and brought back to the Board for their decision in May.

6.6 The TPCT has now published an update to the strategy, which is attached. The strategy is considered by the TPCT to be one that will evolve and proposals for a period of consultation, both local and Borough wide, are included. The TPCT now intend to finally approve the strategy, as well as local plans, during the summer of 2009.

6.7 In the meantime, decisions are due to be taken in response to the “Healthcare for London” consultation by a Joint Committee of PCTs on 12 June and the results of this may also have an influence on the final strategy

7. Legal and Financial Implications

7.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications for the Council, there are likely to be considerable long term indirect affects as the move to provide more healthcare away from hospitals and closer to the community has the potential to

place additional demands on social care services provided by the Council, for which no additional provision has yet been made.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 8.1 There are no anticipated financial implications to the Council. It is noted that the PCT are yet to finalise their financial intentions in relation to the Primary Care Strategy. This will need to be reviewed when further information becomes available.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 9.1 The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 (the Regulations) require the local NHS body to consult the overview and scrutiny committee where proposals for substantial development or variation in provision of the health service in the local authority area are under consideration. The proposals set out in “Developing World Class Primary Care in Haringey” would fall within these provisions and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has made comments on the proposal accordingly. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not satisfied that the consultation has not been adequate either in terms of content or time allowed, the Regulations allow it to make a report to the Secretary of State who may require the NHS body to carry out further consultation. Likewise, if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers that the proposals would not be in the interests of the health service in the Haringey area, the Regulations allow for a report to be made to the Secretary of State who may make a final decision on the proposal.

10. Equalities Implications

- 10.1 The TPCT’s proposals aim to address the considerable health inequalities that currently exist within the Borough. In considering the strategy, Members of the Committee may wish to give particular attention to what extent they feel that the current plans have the potential to achieve this objective.