

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Meeting held on 2nd, June 2009
at Newham Town Hall, East Ham, E6 2RP

- Present:** Councillor Winston Vaughan (Chair)
Councillors Omana Gangadharan (Deputy Chair),
Zulfiqar Ali and Rohima Rahman
- Also Present:** Garner Bertrand, Newham LINK; Iain Griffin, Scrutiny
Manager; Osman Khan, Scrutiny Support Officer; Mary
Clegg and Sarah See, NHS Newham; Bernie Beckett,
Tower Hamlets PCT.
- Apologies:** Councillors James Butler

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and closed at 8.35 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor James Butler and Melanie Walker, Chief Executive, NHS Newham..

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

3. MANAGEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

The Commission agreed to the order of business in the published agenda.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting held on 7th April 2009

Agreed

Matter's Arising

None

Minutes of meeting held on 5th May 2009

Agreed – subject to the some minor spelling corrections.

Matter's Arising

None

5. POLYCLINICS IN NEWHAM: UPDATE BRIEFING

The Commission received an update report from Mary Clegg, Assistant Director, Strategy and Regeneration, NHS Newham on the polyclinic programme for Newham.

In developing the “poly-system” programme for Newham, NHS Newham has taken into account the agreed principles of Lord Darzi’s *‘Healthcare for London’* review and the North East London acute provider review to build upon the local work that has been undertaken in Newham over the past 5 years on expanding healthcare services.

The concept of “poly-systems” in Newham consist of two main proposals:

1. Additional GP practices located in hubs
2. The relocation of specialist facilities from local hospital to a community setting. This will consist of approximately 40% of all outpatients activity being delivered in the community.

The plans for “poly-systems” are linked to the following 5 principles of the Darzi Report:

1. Services focused on individual needs and choices
2. Localise where possible, centralise where necessary
3. Truly integrated care and partnership working, maximising the contribution of the entire workforce
4. Prevention is better than the cure
5. A focus on health inequalities and diversity

NHS Newham are using the “poly-systems” programme to plan for future demand for healthcare, with Newham’s population estimated to increase to be around 337,000+ residents by 2026. The impact of this population growth will be significant to health services and the current facilities would be unable to cope without additional capacity. The design for “poly-systems” has addressed the population growth projections and will be able to offer more capacity and better quality health services over the coming years.

The new “poly-system” model would include services such as GP’s, pharmacists, dental services and opticians. The aim of the programme is to get clinical partners to work together to deliver a range of extended services in a community setting. Over time the facilities would also offer additional services, such as exercise classes, to the community.

There are six poly-system hubs planned in the borough:

1. Urgent Care Polyclinic, Newham General – opens 2011
2. Canning Town – regeneration near station
3. East Ham – Town Hall site
4. Green Street and Forest Gate – site to be acquired
5. Royal Docks – Silvertown Quays (subject to scheme going ahead)
6. Olympic Polyclinic – opens 2013

Issues discussed:

Vicarage Lane health centre: Members discussed whether the site was in fact a polyclinic in all but name. Mary Clegg explained that whilst the centre was not a formally designated “polyclinic” the range of services provided at the centre mean that it did fit the model of a polyclinic. NHS Newham would be discussing with NHS London to see if the centre can be designated as a polyclinic in the near future.

Olympic site polyclinic: The Commission was told of funding issues with the polyclinic planned for the Olympic Site. NHS Newham are working with the Olympic Delivery Authority and the Department for Health to secure a long-term solution for providing a polyclinic for the growing population of Stratford.

Contracting arrangements: The Commission was told that contracts for providing a polyclinic would include an annual review to ensure that the contractors were meeting the requirements of the contract.

New GPs: In response to a Members question, the Commission was informed that the polyclinic was more than simply shifting the current number of GPs to new sites, but was also designed to help address the “under-doctoring” issue in Newham. The plan was to recruit additional GPs to Newham and that the current strategy was to increase the total number of GPs in the Borough by two each year.

Councillor Ali expressed concerns that the key strategic issues – including the supporting evidence base for polyclinics, the key risks, and the costs-benefits analysis – were unclear to Councillors and asked if more detail could be provided to the Commission.

Mary Clegg agreed to produce a more detailed report for the Commission to consider at its September 2009 meeting.

The Chair thanked Mary Clegg for her attendance.

Agreed:

The Commission noted the update on polyclinics.

Mary Clegg would produce a fuller report on poly-systems in Newham and present back to the Health Scrutiny Commission. This would be done by the meeting in September 2009.

6. NORTH EAST LONDON REVIEW OF EMERGENCY DENTAL CARE: CASE FOR CHANGE

The Commission received a report from Sarah See, Head of Primary Care Contracting, NHS Newham and Bernie Beckett, Project Manager, Tower Hamlets PCT on a review of emergency dental care services across North East London and the case for changing the current service.

The Commission was told that the Dental Services Commissioning Group in the North East London sector had requested a review of emergency dental services. The current out-of-hours services consisted of one triage service, and two walk in centres, Royal London and Hornchurch. PCT's across North East London make contributions towards the funding of the triage service.

The Commission was informed of the case for making changes to the current

emergency dental provision which was felt could be improved significantly. Some of the issues with the current system included:

- Patients experiencing long waits (over 2 hours at times) to see an emergency dentist.
- Patients having to wait outside at the Royal London in all weathers.
- Some patients not being able to see a Dentist due the high demand for the limited appointment slots available.
- Lack of public awareness of how to use an emergency dentist.
- Local dentists not offering enough local out-of-hours provision.

Councillor Gangadharan suggested that information was needed in the Newham Magazine so that local residents knew the procedures for seeing an emergency dentist. This suggestion was noted by Bernie Beckett.

The Commission was told that there would be a consultation on the proposals emerging from the review in the next few months and that the comments of the Health Scrutiny Commission would be welcomed by the local NHS trusts.

The Chair thanked Sarah See and Bernie Beckett for their presentation.

Agreed:

- 1. The Commission noted the report.**
- 2. The Commission agreed to receive a further update on the consultation at a future meeting of the Commission.**

7. FUTURE JOINT-HEALTH SCRUTINY

The Scrutiny Manager tabled a short report and outlined the potential for a joint-scrutiny with other north east London boroughs to respond to a NHS review of acute providers across the sector.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee would recommend to Full Council which Councillor's were interested in serving on the Joint Health Overview & Committee (JHOSC). Members were asked to express their interest in serving on the JHOSC in advance of the June Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Agreed

Noted

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Manager presented the work programme to the commission, updating members of forthcoming events and meetings.

The Commission discussed ideas for a short review to be undertaken between September and December 2009. The Commission agreed that it would like to investigate the issue of polyclinics. The Scrutiny Manager to scope the potential for this review.

Agreed

1. The work programme was noted.
2. The Scrutiny Manger to produce a scope for a short review for the next meetin

9. NEXT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING DATE

The Commission noted the dates for the next two Health Scrutiny Commission meetings:

- 7 July 2009, 7pm, East Ham Town Hall:
- 1 September 2009, 7pm, East Ham Town Hall

Members were reminded that the Commission would not meet in August due to the Council recess.