

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

8 JULY 2009

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE SERVICES

JOINT HEALTH OSC (JHOSC) TO REVIEW SERVICES FOR STROKE AND MAJOR TRAUMA IN LONDON

1.0 WORK OF THE JHOSC

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware from regular reports of the work carried out by the JHOSC since its establishment in February 2009. The JHOSC, composed of councillors from all 33 London local authorities and Essex County Council, and chaired by Cllr Christopher Buckmaster, has recently concluded a major scrutiny of proposals from Healthcare for London for significant changes to the provision of major trauma and stroke services in London.
- 1.2 This has been only the second time that a pan-London JHOSC has been formed. The first occasion was between November 2007 - April 2008, and resulted in a well-received response to Professor Lord Darzi's proposals for strategic changes to the delivery of health services in London.
- 1.3 In all, the 'Stroke and Major Trauma' JHOSC met on seven occasions in the period February - May 2009, taking oral evidence from a wide range of witnesses. It also received written representations from 37 bodies, including the Royal Borough.
- 1.4 The Royal Borough played a major role in the work of the JHOSC: Cllr Christopher Buckmaster was elected Chairman; the first and final meetings were hosted by the Royal Borough; and the minutes of meetings and the final report were drafted by an officer of this Council.

2.0 FINAL REPORT

- 2.1 The final report of the JHOSC, which was unanimously agreed, contained 39 recommendations for action.
- 2.2 Overall, the JHOSC accepted the principle of 24/7 specialist care being provided from a number of hospitals across London. It considered that, if the proposed changes were managed well, and continued funding allowed high-quality standards to be achieved, there should be an end to the 'postcode lottery' of healthcare in relation to stroke and major trauma services in London.

- 2.3 A copy of the report's Conclusions and Recommendations is attached for information as an Appendix. A copy of the final report and the supplementary report (containing written evidence and minutes of the JHOSC's meetings) was circulated in early June to all members of the Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The JHOSC's final report was delivered to NHS London on 9 June. In a covering letter, a response to its recommendations was sought by the end of July. It is anticipated that the JHOSC will reconvene in the Autumn to consider Healthcare for London's response to the proposals which have been put to them.
- 3.2 Mr Richard Sumray, Chairman of the Joint Committee of PCTs (which co-ordinated the consultation exercise) has written to confirm that a response to the report will be provided by the end of July, and that Healthcare for London will be pleased to attend the proposed meeting of the JHOSC in the Autumn.

FOR INFORMATION

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report:
none.

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