



Harrow
Clinical Commissioning Group

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7 November 2014

Councillor David Perry
Leader of the Council
Harrow Civic Centre
Harrow

Dear Councillor Perry

Re: Harrow Council Take Part Consultation

Harrow CCG recognises the need to support Harrow Council in this difficult process and would like to understand how we can assist with this exercise further regarding the recent Take Part consultation. Harrow CCG recognises the challenging position our local economy faces. However to date, Harrow CCG continues to be un-assured on both the details and the impact of the proposed changes contained within this consultation exercise.

Alongside reviewing the information which is available on the Council's website, there have also been two discussions held at our CCG Seminars in October 2014. The first discussion covered the overarching consultation with limited details on the impact/scale of proposals by service line, followed by a second discussion with regard to specific impacts on Children's Services.

The CCG would like you to note that the outcome of the 7th October 2014 discussion was that the CCG was not in a position to support the proposals in the consultation due to the very limited information made available to the group in order to have an informed understanding as to the impact of the proposals to residents/service users and to the CCG. A list of discussion points was

As a consequence, on the 9th October 2014 the CCG emailed the consultation project manager Alex Dewsnap with a list of discussion points, information to which would enable the CCG to give consideration to and thereby make an informed response to the consultation. This list as emailed on the 9th October 2014 highlighted the following areas for further information:

- Harrow CCG seeks assurance on how the proposed cuts will impact services and the impact it will have on residents.
- Details on the impact of £56m cut from adult social services.
- The affected populations where these reduced services will impact are likely to affect residents with ill health. The CCG requests additional detailed information to understand the impact and the potential cost pressures for the CCG.

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- What provision is there to safeguard vulnerable groups once funding has been cut?
- The CCG has requested the following information to support this consultation:
 - The total 14/15 budget for each element of the £25m targeted savings as part of the Take Part information issued.
 - The number of service users receiving each of these services targeted in the consultation on an annual basis.
 - The financial value and percentage of the proposed budget reduction for each of the targeted services.
 - The completed EQIAs for each of the services identified for proposed changes.
 - Details on what the intended changes are for each service area i.e. 'what does reducing services targeted older adults' mean and what cohort will be affected.
 - A rationale for how the reduction of respite support for carers aligns to the proposals within the Better Care Fund.
 - What assurances can the Council make that service users will not suffer and the changes will not result in contributing to or causing future safeguarding risks.
- In our Commissioning Intentions, the consistent question from the Council is that "How can you ensure that these commissioning intentions, or a consequence of these, directly or indirectly, doesn't mean a cost shunt back to the Council". As a CCG we now ask Harrow Council how you could give us the assurance that a consequence of these, intended or unintended, doesn't mean a cost shunt to the CCG?
- What modeling has the Council completed to inform the impact of the cuts on the vulnerable and needy groups, including outcomes?
- As part of the consultation, the CCG would like to understand the impact on Health Visiting services with effect from April 2015, given this is a mandatory spend.
- What is the existing budget allocated to staffing costs within this financial year for the pre and post consultation period? In addition, what is the total cost of administrative services for each of these services i.e. Children's Centres?
- Please provide details for the wider £50m savings plan which has not been included in the consultation information.
- On discussion with our commissioned providers, maternity services were not aware of the intended plans to close a high percentage of Harrow's Children's Centres until last week. Harrow CCG would like to have assurance of who has been consulted as there may be a range of key partner organisations that have not been engaged to date.
- The CCG is aware that detailed modeling has been completed by Harrow Council to inform these high level proposals and financials within the published consultation. When will the detailed modeling be released to the CCG for discussion? As a key partner organisation and given that the Council would need our support, the CCG would need further detailed information in order to make an informed response to these proposals.
- The CCG are keen to understand how the Council will evidence that you have changed your views based on these comments from the CCG and wider stakeholders.

It is important to bring to your attention that despite the above points being made both face to face and in writing, Harrow CCG has yet to receive a response to these comments. However we did have a useful discussion with Chris Spencer in relation to Children's Services, where a level of greater

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detail was made available. The plans to significantly reduce the number of Children's Centres will have a detrimental impact of primary care services. This is due to a range of services that have been taken out of GP Services over a number of years, and have been placed in Children's Centres. If these are being closed, the GP Practices may not have the capacity to deal with the increased demand. Given that NHS England has responsibility for the commissioning of primary care services, the CCG would like assurance of NHS England's engagement in this process. This is due to the potential impact on all of Harrow's 35 practices should Children's Centres be closed without adequate alternative resources being made available for the provision of the existing range and volume of services offered to Harrow residents.

The CCG would like to reiterate that it recognises the need to support Harrow Council in this difficult process and would like to understand how we can assist. However to date, Harrow CCG continues to be un-assured on both the details and the impact of the proposed changes contained within this consultation exercise.

In conclusion and based on the above, Harrow CCG urges Harrow Council to strongly consider the impact that any decisions within this consultation may have relation to the health and wellbeing of our local residents of harrow and your partner organisations. We look forward to receiving a response.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Harrow CCG

Chief Officer, Brent, Harrow and Hillingdon CCGs

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