

**REPORT FOR: HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 16 June 2010

**Subject:** The Village Practice Pinner and Buckingham Road Surgery

**Responsible Officer:** Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director Partnership Development and Performance

**Scrutiny Lead Member area:** Councillor Ann Gate, Policy Lead for Health and Social Care

Councillor Vina Mithani, Performance Lead for Health and Social Care

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** **Appendix One:** NHS Harrow letter to patients at Village Practice Pinner, 30 March 2010

**Appendix Two:** Letter from Scrutiny Health and Social Care policy and performance lead members, 14 April 2010

**Appendix Three:** Response letter from NHS Harrow to Scrutiny Health and Social Care policy and performance lead members, 22 April 2010

**Appendix Four:** Letter to patients at Buckingham Road Surgery, April 2010

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report summarises the details of the events and actions that were taken in relation to the closure of the Pinner Village Practice. The report also provides some background on the closure of Buckingham Road Surgery.

[Please see recommendations on next page]

**Recommendations:**

Members of the Health Scrutiny Sub-committee are asked to:

- I. Consider and comment on the details and the issues that lead to the closure of Pinner Village Practice and Buckingham Road Surgery as outlined in the enclosed background papers.
- II. That Health Scrutiny Sub-committee should decide on the next steps to take and consider how they may wish to investigate the closure of the practice and safeguard the interests of the residents formerly registered at the Pinner Village Practice and the Buckingham Road Surgery.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

#### **The Village Practice Pinner**

At the end of the previous administration, on 31 March 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were contacted by James Walters, Director of Development and System Management, NHS Harrow regarding the imminent closure of the Village Practice in Pinner on 5 April 2010.

It was decided by the then Scrutiny Health and Social Care policy and performance lead members that due to the proximity of the elections, it may be more appropriate to address and investigate the issues in the next administration. The lead members also felt that the immediacy of the closure of the practice may also be an issue that may warrant further investigation over a period of time. In view of this, the lead members wrote to the Director of Development and System Management, NHS Harrow raising a number of key questions and issues to be addressed at an Overview and Scrutiny meeting. NHS Harrow's response to the questions are attached to this background report as appendix three along with other background information.

#### **Closure of the Practice**

The Village Practice was closed as a result of two partners leaving the surgery in early March 2010. Prior to this, NHS Harrow had been working with the practice to try and maintain services safely but due to the lack of sustainable working arrangements and inadequate governance measures in place, it was decided that the practice should be closed as it was felt it posed a risk to the safety of patients. The decision to close the practice was taken jointly by partners at the Village Practice and commissioners of NHS Harrow and the contractors agreed that their contract with NHS Harrow would end.

Patients at the practice were informed of the decision to close the practice via a letter that was sent out on 30 March 2010. The practice's website also set out a number of frequently asked questions to aid patients. Patients were informed that the arrangements are temporary until they have been consulted along with other key stakeholders.

In the mean time patients who attended the Village Practice have been directed to the Pinn Medical Centre, also in Pinner. The remaining salaried doctors, nurses, and administrative staff from the Village Practice were also moved to the Pinn Medical Centre.

#### **Buckingham Road Surgery**

A decision was taken to close the Buckingham Road Surgery operated by Dr Gould and partners on 31 May 2010. The surgery was closed due to the fact that the premises did not meet the level of standard required for the provision of NHS services.

The closure of the site comes with approval from the PCT after the practice had sought alternative accommodation in the vicinity of the surgery without much success. The plan is to accommodate the patients (less than 1500) at

other sites that are covered by the practice. The GP, nurses and administrative staff will also be located at other sites that are covered by the practice.

It is believed that patients and staff were consulted in advance and they have been informed of the final decision to close the surgery. Patients are able to transfer to other sites within the practice or register elsewhere. Neighbouring PCTs and practices have also been informed of the closure.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report

### **Performance Issues**

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

### **Environmental Impact**

There are no environmental issues associated with this report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

### **Corporate Priorities**

The council has a priority to 'improve the support for vulnerable people' and 'build stronger communities', the content of this report is relevant to both these priorities and the need to safeguard the interests of residents.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not necessary for this report.

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contact:**

Fola Irikefe  
Scrutiny Officer  
020 8420 9389

### **Background Papers:**

Appendix One: Letter from NHS Harrow to patients at Village Practice Pinner, 30 March 2010

Appendix Two: Letter from Scrutiny Health and Social Care policy and performance lead members, 14 April 2010

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