

14<sup>th</sup> April 2010

James Walters  
Director of Development & System Management  
NHS Harrow  
The Heights  
Fourth Floor  
59-65 Lowlands Road  
Harrow  
HA1 3AW

Dear James

### **THE VILLAGE PRACTICE PINNER**

Thank you for advising scrutiny of the closure of the Village Practice in Pinner. We are writing to advise you as to how we would like to consider this issue further.

As we are sure you are aware, the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 13<sup>th</sup> April was the last in the current administration. As such, we did not feel that we would be able to consider the closure in any detail at this meeting. However, the committee has identified a range of issues on which it would appreciate further information. We should be grateful if you could let us know:

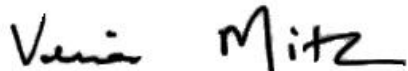
- How NHS Harrow monitors the performance of its contracts with GPs and what redress it has when performance appears to be deteriorating. In this context it would be helpful to know when you became aware of the issues that have resulted in the closure.
- Why there was no prior consultation on the closure
- Why the closure was so urgent.
- What is meant by 'an absence of sustainable permanent working arrangements and the necessary governance measures posed a risk to the safety of patients'.
- Your letter refers to arrangements as a 'temporary' measure. If this is indeed the case, what long-term solutions are proposed?
- What are the pros and cons of these solutions?
- When and how do you intend to consult on these proposals?
- In this context, how do you intend to commission GP services for the wider area?
- What are the implications of a sudden and significant increase in patient numbers for the Pinn Medical Centre? Have you assessed the capacity of the centre to accommodate this and have you assessed the risk to patients?
- Are you satisfied that the Pinn Medical Centre is accessible to the patients of the Village Practice in Pinner, particularly those who are elderly or disabled?

We should be grateful if you could provide your response to Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, she can be contacted at [lynne.margetts@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.margetts@harrow.gov.uk) or at:  
London Borough of Harrow  
Scrutiny Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Civic Centre  
Station Road  
Harrow  
HA1 2XF

We have scheduled further discussion of the issue for the first full meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee after the election. This will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June and we would like to invite you to attend the meeting to discuss the matter further with the committee. We hope you will be able to attend.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely.



**Councillor Vina Mithani**  
**Scrutiny Policy Lead Councillor**  
**Adult Health and Social Care**



**Councillor Rekha Shah**  
**Scrutiny Performance Lead Councillor**  
**Adult Health and Social Care**

cc Cllr Stanley Sheinwald, Chairman Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Mitzi Green, Vice Chairman Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Paul Osborn, Performance, Communication and Corporate Services Portfolio  
Holder, Pinner Ward Councillor