

SCRUTINY REVIEW – GP SURGERIES – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive be recommended –

1. That given that a number of GP Surgeries are at present in ageing premises, and that GP services are provided from a number of different locations, the CCG/Islington GP Federation should work to establish integrated networks of GP surgeries, providing a wider range of facilities and services for patients
2. That in relation to recommendation 1 above, the CCG/Islington GP Federation should consider, when looking at the development of integrated networks, establishing a closer working relationship of GP's in the borough, the physical expansion of premises where feasible, relocation of existing premises to larger sites, and remodelling of premises/sharing services to maximise clinical use. This should be done in liaison with the LBI Planning Department to ensure that where new housing developments are planned in the borough, premises are allocated for GP provision, where this is necessary
3. That, due to demographic changes taking place in the borough, there is a need to ensure GP surgeries are situated in the right locations, and have the facilities available to cope with an ageing population. The CCG should work with the Islington GP Federation/North Central London, and the LB.I. Planning Department to ensure that they were aware of local housing developments/population trends that may impact on GP services in the borough
4. That due to recruitment/retention problems of GP's, and the fact that a significant number of GP's in the borough will be retiring in the next 10 years, the work/life attractions of Islington as a location be advertised, in order to attract younger GP's and clinical staff
5. That the Committee noted that many younger GP's have indicated that they wish to have more flexibility and variety in their careers, and younger nurses wish to pursue more career development. The Committee are of the view therefore that there should be increased development of team working in GP practices, such as the recruitment of advanced care practitioners, pharmacists, physician associates, based in practices, and there should be more of a focus on provision of care as a team and developing a more holistic approach. The CCG should continue to work towards this goal, and to investigate other new ways of working to encourage and develop recruitment to GP practices
6. That there should be consideration given to common terms and conditions for practice nurses, to enable more movement between surgeries, so that this will create increased job opportunities/job satisfaction for nursing staff. This will be beneficial in recruiting and retaining nurses in the borough in the short and longer term
7. That there is a need to further develop the use of digital technology to support new ways of working in primary care. In addition to those initiatives already being undertaken, the development of online consultations should be further developed, and support should be given to the North London Health Information Exchange initiative, which will allow clinical staff to view integrated records from across provider organisations

8. That discussions should take place with regard to further improving access for patients for GP surgeries, with increased availability to an increased range of services at HUBS, extended access in evenings and at weekends, and provision of investment for additional facilities to provide more appointments at GP surgeries
9. That, given that the Committee heard evidence about the benefits that have been achieved for patients through social prescribing, there should be increased development of provision in this area for GP's to link in with non-medical based services, which can provide support and develop skills and self-knowledge, in order to assist patients in managing their conditions. Evidence has also shown that social prescribing builds capacity into the health and social care system, and offers an alternative to traditional health care interventions
10. That the Committee welcome the additional funding provided through the GP contract, and the development of digital and IT technology to support practices, and the Committee support the workforce projects taking place across the North Central London region. The Committee support the development of the NHS App, and the provision of 25% of appointments being made available on line. The Committee encourage practices to consider making changes to their appointments booking systems, and to consider their triage processes, as part of their online booking process