

NORTH CENTRAL LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM
REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS. THE MEETING CAN BE
WATCHED LIVE VIA [HTTPS://COUNCILMEETINGS.CAMDEN.GOV.UK](https://councilmeetings.camden.gov.uk).

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Wards

8. DEPUTATIONS

NCL NHS-Watch have amended their previous deputation. This is the updated version and replaces the deputation on the main agenda. (Pages 3 - 4)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ENDS

Issued on: Tuesday 22 September 2020

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Deputation from NCL NHS-Watch to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, North Central London. 25 September 2020

The Government took wide-ranging but time-limited powers earlier this year to combat Covid. Among the changes made were significant alterations to health service configuration, including making almost all GP services digital, ceasing open access to A&E without prior agreement from NHS 111, halting most acute elective treatment and the redirection of services to different sites, including private hospitals. Emergency powers allowed this to be done without the statutory public consultation that would otherwise have been required.

At the end of April, Sir David Sloman, NHSE London, wrote to ICS Chairs and SROs about major and rapid changes to London's NHS, setting out the intention to keep many of these changes in place on a permanent basis. The document is entitled *Journey to a New Health and Care System*, dated 24/4/20 with a covering letter, requested that *revised ICS plans be submitted by 11/5/20*, and the new system in place by November 2021.

The document outlined a highly centralised, streamlined and virtual approach to health and care, the acceptance of '*a different kind of risk appetite than the one we are used to*' and scant mention of Councils or consultation. He included a cryptic phrase '*new approach to consent through systematic deliberative public engagement e.g. citizens juries*'. The whole tone of this document expresses a concern 'not to waste a good crisis' and to hurry to implement wide-ranging changes without adequate statutory consultation, changes high on the wishlist of health planners.

Local Authorities were not consulted and have not been formally involved in the plans submitted by the ICS to NHSE, nor has the JHOSC been informed or consulted about these changes.

Public accountability and the involvement of local authority service providers in proposed service changes matters because the NHS is ours and we need to hold to account those who exercise a stewardship role on our behalf. Bypassing local councils also has serious consequences, as the Covid pandemic has demonstrated. JOHSC is the main institution of local public accountability for health, and we therefore urge you to:

- Require North London Partners to set out the changes that have been made in services under the emergency powers and state whether there are plans for keeping the changes into the future
- For those changes that are proposed as permanent, request
 - they are halted until local councils have been consulted
 - they set out how they will meet their statutory obligations for public consultation eg on Primary Care
- Since many of the current changes will have serious implications for health inequalities (eg digital by default), ask to see a detailed health inequality impact assessment of their proposals

- Require full public consultation on any plans to takeover any aspect of social care from Local Authorities
- Ask the ICS to set out the steps it will take to ensure that the Government's privatised Test, Track and Isolate system can be better integrated with both local NHS testing arrangements and local public and environmental health services' expertise and capacity for track and trace

Without the measures we advocate, the NHS in England will become even more centralised and financially driven. It will be less subject to democratic oversight. It will be remote and unresponsive to its users. Ultimately this will harm us all.

Brenda Allan, Alan Morton, on behalf of NCL NHS-Watch

See Sloman's Covering Letter:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/9bc520cb001/a30632af-1aa6-479d-bfc7-4f3b6c5d5e02.pdf>

Plan: <https://files.constantcontact.com/9bc520cb001/8ed3b4c4-eae2-49d7-be98-c55e7d206cbc.pdf> , a document leaked to the HSJ