

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 25 September 2012

### Last chance to have your say on NHS changes in your area

The '*Shaping a healthier future*' consultation on the future of NHS healthcare in North West London closes on 8th October – don't leave it too late to let local doctors know what you think about their proposals.

The proposals developed by clinicians and leading NHS figures would centralise major emergency care onto five specialist sites in NW London, with the other four hospitals redeveloped as local hospitals and retaining Urgent Care Centres. All nine hospitals would still treat the majority of patients at their current sites.

The proposals would see more investment into care outside hospitals, such as GP surgeries and other community facilities. This means we can treat more people nearer to their home and prevent the large number of hospital admissions which result from people with long term conditions not getting the day to day help they need.

Most residents who need urgent care that cannot be treated by a GP or in the community would be seen at an Urgent Care Centre. These would be open 24 hours a day 7 days a week in all the nine main hospitals – even those where it is proposed to move the A&E. Urgent care centres would be able to do tests including x-rays, minor surgery, physiotherapy and deal with the vast majority of injuries such as strains, sprains, cuts and broken arms; scalds and burns; stomach pains; or ear, nose, throat and infections.

People who really need the specialist skills of an A&E often need to travel by ambulance. The London Ambulance Service has made it clear that for most people the extra journey time will be no more than six minutes. The patients most affected by the changes will still have an A&E less than seven miles away – a distance that many Londoners are already used to. It is already the case that those with serious conditions such as heart attacks or a stroke are taken to a specialist hospital and not their closest A&E.

NHS North West London has put forward three options for how hospital services could change. We are keen to encourage as many people as possible to consider the proposals and fill in the consultation response form to let us know their views.

To help inform the wide-ranging public debate taking place, NHS North West London has produced a wide range of materials, including factsheets which show what the proposals mean to residents in each borough, consultation summaries, easy read guides and much more. These are all available from the website where you can read them, print or email to others - you can also contact the team on 0800 881 5209 or [consultation@nw.london.nhs.uk](mailto:consultation@nw.london.nhs.uk) to request printed copies.

You can respond online, print off a response form from the website or call us and we will send you a response form with a freepost envelope. Response forms are also available in other languages. <http://www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk/have-your-say>

**ENDS**

To read the Consultation document or learn more about *Shaping a healthier future* please visit [www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk](http://www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk)

For press enquiries or images please contact Sarah Garrett at [Sarah.Garrett@nw.london.nhs.uk](mailto:Sarah.Garrett@nw.london.nhs.uk) or on 07736 297 245.

**NOTES TO EDITORS****Shaping a healthier future**

- The 'Shaping a healthier future' programme was launched in January 2012 with the publication of the Case for Change.
- It is being taken forward by eight clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), made up of GPs representing NW London's eight primary care trusts (PCTs). They have worked with hospital doctors, nurse leaders, providers of community care such as mental health services, social services, patient and volunteer groups and charities to develop the proposals for change;
- These proposals and their vision for the future of healthcare in NWL are set out in the [Consultation document](#) and all of the evidence and work that has gone into developing these proposals is set out in the pre-consultation business case;
- The programme has four medical directors:
  - Dr Mark Spencer, medical director of NHS NWL and a GP in Ealing
  - Dr Susan La Brooy, medical director of Hillingdon Hospital and a consultant physician in acute medicine and care of the elderly
  - Dr Mike Anderson, medical director of Chelsea and Westminster and a consultant gastroenterologist
  - Dr Tim Spicer, chair of Hammersmith and Fulham Clinical Commissioning Group and a GP in Hammersmith

**The consultation**

- The consultation will run for 14 weeks from Monday 2 July until Monday 8 October.
- The full consultation document and response is available in local GP surgeries, hospitals and libraries throughout North West London and neighbouring areas
- A summary leaflet with all contact information has been distributed in local publications throughout the NHS NW London area as well as three neighbouring boroughs;
- We are holding a series of public road show events across the eight boroughs in which NWS NW London works and three neighbouring boroughs (Camden, Richmond and Wandsworth) throughout the summer. These are being widely promoted and more details of the times and locations of these can be found on the dedicated 'Shaping a healthier future' website at [www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk](http://www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk);
- A full copy of the consultation document and response form can also be downloaded from the website and the response form can be completed online;
- Our interactive travel and services tool is also available online to help people understand how the proposals could affect their travel times and local services <http://www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk/infographic>
- A freephone line (0800 881 5209) and dedicated email address ([consultation@nw.london.nhs.uk](mailto:consultation@nw.london.nhs.uk)) for feedback and questions has been set up;
- Focus groups for patients, particularly 'hard to reach' and under-represented groups will also be taking place;

## North West London

Chief Executive: Anne Rainsberry

Chair: Jeff Zitron

- We will additionally be holding hospital site events, geared towards NHS staff but also open to patients;
- Following the consultation we will then spend time assessing people's views before making a further report in early 2013. The JCPCT will then make the final decision on changes to services;
- If changes are agreed they will take at least three years to put in place. Work to develop services that can be provided in the home, GP surgeries and health centres has already started and only once these services are in place will changes to hospitals be made.

### **NHS North West London**

- The North West London (NWL) Cluster was formally established on 1 April 2011 and is the largest commissioning cluster in London, with an annual health budget of £3.4bn and serving a population of around 1.9 million;
- It operates across eight boroughs: Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea, and Westminster.  
[www.northwestlondon.nhs.uk](http://www.northwestlondon.nhs.uk)
- There are eight Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) with strong local GP leadership operating in shadow form across all eight boroughs.

### **Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT)**

- The consultation is being overseen by the JCPCT;
- The JCPCT is made up of voting representatives from the eight PCTs in North West London (NHS Brent, NHS Ealing, NHS Hammersmith and Fulham, NHS Harrow, NHS Hillingdon, NHS Hounslow, NHS Kensington and Chelsea and NHS Westminster);
- It also includes voting representatives from the three neighbouring PCTs that may be affected by the proposals (NHS Richmond, NHS Wandsworth and NHS Camden);
- The Chair is Jeff Zitron who is also chair of the NHS North West London Cluster Board.