



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Peter Barrett, Chair
Independent Reconfiguration Panel
6th Floor, 157 – 197 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SP

Tuesday 14th June 2011

Dear Peter,

We welcome the opportunity for an independent review of the plan for local hospital services. We trust that your review into the process undertaken after the Secretary of State for Health's moratorium will confirm the view of the Enfield Council Health Scrutiny Panel that it was flawed and did not meet the tests laid down by the Secretary of State. We understand the Secretary of State has expressed the view that the Panel should consider options for service change that are not restricted by current organisational boundaries, and we support this view.

We continue to hold the view, which is supported by our meeting on 20th May with the GP consortia, that the recommendation to implement the BEH strategy is not supported by Enfield GPs and Enfield patients or public. We therefore invite you to conclude that it would be wrong to impose the BEH strategy upon Enfield.

We are concerned about the delay in reaching a decision about the configuration of local health services and the consequences of planning blight and financial and clinical insecurity. We therefore invite you to first confirm that the BEH strategy should not be implemented and second set out a robust timetable for adoption of a new plan.

We would want to see the following characteristics to be included in any plan to make it acceptable to our constituents:

- An Integrated Enfield Health Service
 - Including support for Foundation trust status;
 - Including a guarantee of local NHS land and property being used for the benefit of Enfield's health service.



- A&E units at Chase Farm and North Middlesex
- Maternity services at Chase Farm and North Middlesex

We believe the opportunities of an integrated Enfield Health Service provide new ways of delivering emergency and maternity services at both Chase Farm and North Middlesex.

We recognise that work is being undertaken to consider new models of care and we would wish Enfield to take a lead in the introduction of such innovation with the benefit of an integrated health service.

Points for consideration:

Organisational Structure

The current hospital Trust configuration is inappropriate to the needs of Enfield borough's increasing population. We believe that Barnet Hospital will not deal adequately with the needs of Enfield (and Broxbourne) residents displaced by the full implementation of the BEH strategy. Barnet Hospital is to the west of Enfield with poor transport links, particularly from east of Enfield. The Joint Health Scrutiny Panel report, 18 December 2007 to the BEH Clinical Strategy acknowledges this point in paragraphs 3.1-7. Despite the previous recommendations of the IRP and previous Secretary of State for Health, the lack of transport access has not been addressed.

The population of Enfield represents a significantly different population make up than that of the neighbouring borough of Barnet, and health inequalities vary sharply. The Equalities Impact Assessment produced by the BEH strategy was rightly challenged by the Joint Health Scrutiny panel (Paragraph 6.1-4) that concluded insufficient analysis of the diverse populations served in Enfield and the impact on equality of the proposed changes had been undertaken.

It is our view that a logical step forward would be for the separation of the Barnet and Chase Farm Trust allowing for a new Trust between North Middlesex Hospital and Chase Farm Hospital to be united as one new Foundation Trust.

Benefits of the re-organisation

It is right that the population of Enfield should be primarily served by Enfield Hospitals. Residents from Barnet Enfield and Haringey will of course be free to choose to use hospital services in neighbouring boroughs. However this change of organisation would



allow for strategic planning and therefore future direction for Chase Farm being considered in the principal context of the borough of Enfield.

The Health and Social Care Bill provides for the transfer of responsibility to Commissioning boards that represent the local population, and passes Public Health responsibilities to Enfield Council. With the organisational change would come greater integration of services and care, provide local GPs with the opportunity for local commissioning, and simplify the scrutiny roles of Enfield Healthwatch and Enfield Council Scrutiny panel ensuring local accountability

Any proposed land sale would ensure that proceeds were safeguarded for use by the Trust for the benefit of patients. The history of Highlands Hospital being sold in 1993, with no funds being passed to Chase Farm for investment, lingers on in Enfield and this must not be permitted to happen again.

A&E

At the heart of the proposals being reviewed by the IRP is the plan to downgrade Chase Farm's A&E unit. We believe the organisational change opens up the possibility for a fresh look at how two A&E units can be maintained in Enfield. The government plans are that GP's should be at the heart of decision making and with the Pathfinder Enfield Consortia established Enfield GP's are in a position to plan for A&E at Chase Farm.

We would encourage commissioners to work with Department of Health Officials to explore new and alternative strategies to meeting A&E requirements at two Enfield sites.

The value of a North Enfield A&E beyond the borough boundaries remains high as Chase Farm continues to serve the patient needs of residents from Cheshunt and Broxbourne. The Commissioning consortia will be able to assess the positive impact this has on demand for A&E services through consultation with their commissioning partners in Hertfordshire.

Maternity

The plans contained in BEH to downgrade maternity services at Chase Farm Hospital come at a time when the number of live births has risen year on year since 2005. More significant is the number of live births at Chase Farm in comparison to the other two



hospitals in the area; in 2009 the number of births at Chase Farm was 3,134, North Middlesex 3,240 and Barnet 3,235. It is abundantly clear that Chase Farm bears an equally heavy load in providing maternity services, and downgrading will not only impinge on patients in Enfield but will also place an unbearable burden on services at Barnet and North Middlesex.

On behalf of the constituents of Enfield Southgate and Enfield North we hope that your panel will be able to give due consideration to these points and we look forward to meeting you to discuss the details of these points.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick de Bois', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Nick de Bois MP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Burrowes', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David Burrowes MP