

<b>HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
<b>26 MARCH 2014</b>
<b>WALK IN CENTRES</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform the Panel about plans in relation to the future of Walk In Centres in Nottingham; and to provide an opportunity for the Panel to consider whether the proposals represent a 'substantial variation or development' in service and if so, how it will fulfil its statutory role in relation to the proposals for change.

**2. Action required**

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to determine:
- a) whether proposed changes to Walk In Centres in Nottingham City constitute a 'substantial variation or development' in service; and
  - b) if so, the process and timescale for carrying out the Panel's statutory role in relation to the proposed change.

**3. Background information**

- 3.1 There are currently two Walk In Centres in Nottingham City Centre. These are:

NHS Walk In Centre  
London Road  
open 7am – 9pm every day

8am – 8pm Health Centre  
Upper Parliament Street  
open 8am – 8pm every day

- 3.2 The contract is coming to an end and representatives of Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group will be attending the meeting to outline proposals in relation to the future of these Walk In Centres.
- 3.3 The Health Scrutiny Panel has a statutory right to be consulted by NHS Trusts, and other relevant health service providers when they are considering making substantial developments or variations to services.

- 3.4 A 'substantial development or variation' of health service is not defined in Regulations, but a key feature is that there is a major change to services experienced by patients and/ or future patients. Proposals may range from changes that affect a small group of people within a small geographical area to major reconfigurations of specialist services involving significant numbers of patients across a wide area.
- 3.5 The Panel will need to agree with commissioners whether proposed changes to the Walk In Centres in Nottingham City constitute a 'substantial variation or development' in service.
- 3.6 If the Panel decides that the proposed changes do constitute a 'substantial variation or development' then the Panel has a statutory responsibility to consider:
- Whether, as a statutory body, the Panel has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
  - Whether, in developing the proposals for service change, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation; and
  - Whether the proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service.
- 3.7 If, following attempts at local resolution, the Panel concludes that consultation was not adequate or if it believes that the proposals are not in the best interests of local health services then it can make recommendations for improvement and ultimately refer the decision to the Secretary of State for Health.
- 3.8 If the Panel decides that the proposed changes do constitute a 'substantial variation or development', it will need to decide the process and timescale for undertaking its role. This will include:
- Information that the Panel requires
  - Who the Panel wishes to speak to
  - Whether a site visit(s) need to be undertaken
  - Timescale for carrying out the work

4. **List of attached information**

None

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

Health and Social Care Act 2001

7. **Wards affected**

All

8. **Contact information**

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