

Councillor E Keller
London Borough of
Barking & Dagenham
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(Sent via email to haveyoursay.bhr@nhs.net)

5 September 2019

Dear BHR CCGs,

Consultation on Continuing Healthcare Placements Policy

This letter is in response to Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups' consultation on the Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Placements Policy and represents the views of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Health Scrutiny Committee.

BHR CCGs' representatives, Dr Amit Sharma and Sharon Morrow, attended our Committee meeting on 3 September 2019 to present the proposals.

At the end of our discussions we recommended that, given the potential commissioning implications of the proposals, you should also consult with our Health and Well Being Board (HWBB) on 10 September 2019, as well as the next Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) meeting on the proposals, which you accepted.

With regards to the proposed policy, I will summarise our concerns below, in anticipation that further discussions on these points will be had at the HWBB and JHOSC.

- Members were not comfortable with the notion of BHR CCGs having the ability to force any of our residents to go into a care home against their wishes, and would ask that you consider very carefully how the proposed Policy could affect a resident; for example, being split from their spouse, and other members of their close networks;
- We recognise that the proposed Policy does not cover those who are assessed as needing 'fast-track' CHC (care which is provided to people who have a rapidly deteriorating condition and may be approaching the end of life). However, we believe the proposed Policy, as it stands, potentially allows the CCGs to take a decision that a person in receipt of a 'standard' CHC package, who eventually approaches the end of their life, will die in a care or nursing home (potentially one

- not of their choice), against their wishes, which is against the principles of patient choice and dignity;
- The composition of the appeals panel: the proposed Policy states that appeals against placement decisions will be heard by a panel consisting of lay members and clinicians. We propose that an Adult Social Care Statutory Officer of the Local Authority be included as a member of the appeals panel to bring in their expertise into the decision-making process and act as a further 'check and balance; and
 - It was explained to us that a young person whose needs under a CHC package costs above the 10 percent threshold stated in the proposed Policy, would be considered an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore, the Policy would not apply. However, we consider that this needs to be made clearer in the Policy, as a decision to place a young person in a care home runs the risk of institutionalising them, having adverse implications on the rest of their life's outcomes.

We would be grateful if the papers you present to the HWBB and the JHOSC provide further clarification on the above concerns so that they may make an informed response to the consultation.

Please note that we were pleased to hear from Dr Sharma, as the End of Life Care Lead, that he has made good progress in promoting advance care planning, which will help enable better planning and care of people nearing the end of life and give them the peace of dying in the place their choosing. We ask that you consider these outcomes in respect of the potential implications of the proposed CHC Placements Policy.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Eileen Keller
Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee

CC

Cllr Maureen Worby, Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health Integration

Elaine Allegretti, Director, People & Resilience

Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health

Stephan Liebrecht, Operational Director, Adults' Care & Support

Anthony Clements, Principle Democratic Services Officer, London Borough of Havering

Jilly Szymanski, Scrutiny Co-Ordinator, London Borough of Redbridge

Eleanor Durie, Communications Manager, NELCSU