



Anthony Clements
Principal Democratic Services
Officer

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

London Borough of Havering
Town Hall Main Road
Romford RM1 3BD

Please contact: Anthony Clements

Telephone: 01708 433065

Fax: 01708 432424

email: anthony.clements@oneSource.co.uk

TO:

Jane Milligan
Accountable Officer
NHS North East London Commissioning
Alliance/East London Health Care Partnership
4th Floor, Unex Tower
5 Station Street
Stratford
London E15 1DA

Date: 30 September 2020

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

By E-mail

Dear Jane

Perceived Disparities in Healthcare Resources between Inner and Outer North East London

As the current Chairman of the Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I am writing to you, following discussions at the recent meeting of the Joint Committee, in order to express Members' concerns at what we consider to be a growing imbalance in resources for healthcare between Inner and Outer North East London.

Members have noted with increasing concern developments such as the transfer of more clinical services and beds to the Royal London Hospital and the fact that there are two maternity departments located in Tower Hamlets compared to only one covering Barking & Dagenham, Havering and much of Redbridge. There are also two major hospital sites in Tower

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is exercising its powers as conferred under the NHS Act 2006, section 245 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012). This is distinct from and separate to those powers exercised by the Executive of the constituent Councils.

Hamlets and the overall number of acute beds In Inner North East London is nearly three times that of Outer North East London.

The Joint Committee feels therefore that further investment in the Tower Hamlets area such as the new Early Intervention Cancer Service at Mile End and the Clinical Sciences Centre in Whitechapel should be reviewed on the grounds of location. Would there be any possibility for example of the Clinical Sciences Centre being located on the Barking Hospital site and the Cancer Service being sited in vacant accommodation at King George Hospital?

The Joint Committee remains unconvinced by the overall argument that the concentration of facilities in geographically distant locations will result in better standards of care and is likely to be undertaking further scrutiny work on this area. Discussions will also be initiated with the borough Directors of Public Health in order to obtain their views on any imbalance of facilities.

On governance issues, Members have noted that you are CEO of the Health Care Partnership and of the Commissioning Alliance whilst also being accountable officer for Tower Hamlets CCG. Whilst accepting that the first two organisations are not legally established entities, the Joint Committee wish to raise the matter of any conflict of interest here and whether this can be resolved.

The Joint Committee would, however, request your initial comments on this letter and the balance of resources between Inner and Outer North East London.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Neil Zammett
Current Chairman, Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CC:

All Members and Supporting Officers, Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Borough Directors of Public Health – Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is exercising its powers as conferred under the NHS Act 2006 section 245 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012). This is distinct from and separate to those powers exercised by the Executive of the constituent Councils.