

## **Islington Governing Body Meeting on 9 January 2019**

**Questions from the public (received in advance of the meeting) Questions 1- 4 were sent in by Mr Richards.**

**Question 1 relates to the part one draft minutes of the Governing Body meeting on 14 November 2018. With specific reference to item 1.7.1, paragraph two. I did not agree to the written answers being published on the CCG website but asked that they should be associated with the minutes and I understood that was agreed.**

*Answer: We publish the answers to every question from members of the public on our website, along with the meeting papers for governing body meetings. The questions and answers are also referenced in the minutes of governing body meetings so that there is a clear record.*

**Question 2 relates to meetings of the North Central London Joint Commissioning Committee on 19 December 2018 and 3 January 2019. Regarding the implementation of the North Central London-wide Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (POLCE) policy, what is the anticipated cost of the Referral Management System which will have to be created from scratch in Islington, and what effect will these costs have on the CCG's finances?**

*Answer: There has not been a decision to create a referral management system in Islington. The North Central London Joint Commissioning Committee's decision was to endorse work to develop a proposal for a single contractual approach and the management of referrals.*

*This proposal will include an options appraisal of the different approaches that could be taken by CCGs in north central London, one of which could be a referral management system amongst others.*

*Ahead of any decision to proceed these options will be assessed for a number of factors including value for money, with any decision related to the proposal returning to the Joint Commissioning Committee ahead of implementation.*

**Question 3 relates to agenda item 5.6, "Minutes of the NCL Audit Committee in Common meeting of 19 July 2018". In view of the reports of three fraud investigations within the North Central London area at paragraph(s) 4.1.2, 4.1.3 and 4.1.4, why have these minutes been presented so late?**

*Answer: As is standard practice, minutes of committee meetings are approved by their members at the subsequent meeting – in order to be considered a correct record – before circulation to the Governing Body when meeting in public. The NCL Audit Committee in Common (ACIC) meets quarterly, and as such due process means that members will not always have the opportunity to approve the minutes in time for them to be submitted to the very next Governing Body meeting.*

*With ACIC in its infancy, discussion took place on how the forum should report to all individual NCL Governing Bodies going forward in order to adopt a common approach across all CCGs.*

*Out of commitment to transparency, a decision was taken recently that minutes of all ACIC meetings will be presented to Governing Bodies once they have been approved by the committee at its subsequent meeting, despite there being no formal requirement to do so. The Audit Chair of Islington CCG gave assurance to the Governing Body that ACIC do actively review issues of fraud. One of the benefits of having an audit committee in common is that they share issues of fraud across all five CCGs.*

*To demonstrate the process, the minutes of the October 2018 meeting will be approved by ACIC at its January 2019 meeting, before being presented to Governing Bodies in March 2019.*

**Question 4 relates to agenda item 4.1, Board Assurance Framework. Why has Islington (and also North Central London), never registered “Brexit” as a risk?**

*Answer: The Department of Health and Social Care is working with NHS England to make appropriate arrangements to ensure that the health and care system is prepared for a ‘no-deal’ Brexit. With this in mind the CCG has identified key members of senior staff to work in partnership with NHS England in responding to any challenges arising from Brexit. It was stated a summary of where we are with Brexit will be provided at the next Governing Body meeting.*

*Whilst it is too early for absolute clarity on the risks posed to the CCG in its role of commissioning local health and care services, this as part of our work with NHS England will be kept under close review. In the event of any such risks reaching the CCG’s Board Assurance Framework threshold they will be included in the associated reports provided formally to the Governing Body.*