

PCCC 21 08 2019

Responses to questions from Dr B Golden

1) Given that the proposal to move a practice or practices into FMH was to be merely a change of address of an existing contract(s), and NHSE has confirmed that there was no new contract, why was the project run as a contract procurement, therefore inviting applicants from the whole of Barnet, including practices over 4.5 miles away, potentially requiring a round trip of up to 9 miles for patients to visit their GP practice?

Response: Barnet CCG (and its predecessor Primary Care Trust) have been attempting to relocate a GP practice at Finchley Memorial for more than seven years. The void costs at Finchley Memorial Hospital are costing the NHS around £180,000 a year. Previous attempts at encouraging a GP practice to relocate to the hospital have failed due to the perceived high service costs at the hospital. The CCG, in discussion with NHS England, agreed that part funding the services costs would encourage relocation and reduce the void cost burden on the NHS. To be fair to all practices, this service subsidy was offered to all practices in Barnet. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that the CCG is not awarding a contract as part of the Finchley Memorial Hospital 'Expression of Interest' process and that this is not a procurement. However, the CCG chose to apply best practice principles in order to ensure that the process was open, transparent, and equitable.

2) Given that CQC Regulation 15(1)f requires premises to be "appropriately located for the purpose for which they are being used", and must refuse registration if this regulation is not satisfied, how can premises 3.2 miles from the existing premises with poor transport links, and an unprecedented 2 miles outside the perimeter of the practice area of NW11, be considered appropriately located?

Response: The CQC has stated that "The intention of this regulation is to make sure that the premises where care and treatment are delivered are clean, suitable for the intended purpose, maintained and where required, appropriately located, and that the equipment that is used to deliver care and treatment is clean, suitable for the intended purpose, maintained, stored securely and used properly.

Finchley Memorial Hospital is a modern, purpose-built building with a high-standard maintenance programme; excellent security; a spacious environment; and other accessible facilities that make it ideal for providing high-quality GP-led care. There is a large car park, and nearby bus routes. We are satisfied that the location meets CQC criteria.

3) Why, in answer to patients' questions on any possible benefits of the proposed move, did the CCG repeatedly say that they would have access to a wider range of services, when the practice patients already have access to all the services at FMH without moving premises, and being co-located is of no benefit because all the services require an appointment, and therefore a separate journey on the appointed day?

Response: If patients from Ravenscroft choose to relocate to a GP surgery at Finchley Memorial Hospital they would have access to a wider range of services provided on site than they currently do.

In addition to benefitting from a high quality, accessible, purpose-built facility that provides the ideal space, lighting and room layouts for consultations, Finchley Memorial Hospital has an excellent maintenance and cleaning programme, and security to make patients and staff secure.

Co-location provides multiple benefits and the partnership with Central London Community Healthcare particularly supports the development of improved care for patients:

- Whilst most services on the site require an appointment, services at the hospital are able to arrange appointments that are on the same day / follow on from one another. The GP surgery is able to book appointments that fit with existing patient appointments, and vice versa.
- On site diagnostics are available, potentially reducing the number of patients having to be referred to a more distant A&E
- New services can be developed that involve patient consultations with a multi-disciplinary team
- Co-location enables much improved liaison between healthcare professionals, co-ordinating care around each patient