

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

Hackney Council
Room 118, Town Hall
Mare St, E8 1EA

Reply to: jarlath.oconnell@hackney.gov.uk

21 July 2017

Cllr Jonathan McShane
Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Devolution

Dear Jonathan

Executive Response to HiH's Scrutiny Review on 'End of life care'

At last night's meeting of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission we tabled your response to our report of our review on 'End of life care'.

While we are grateful to you for acknowledging the importance of this issue, the response from the various partners to this very cross cutting review falls very short of what we had hoped, in terms of taking on board the issues we exposed in the review. The general view of Members last night was that the responses are inadequate and don't demonstrate what changes might take place or give us confidence that any change will take place.

As you know the process is that we wait for 6 months for the update on implementation but if the issues aren't taken on board now we are not confident that a response in 6 months would be any clearer.

Whilst partners are fully entitled to disagree with us, if they choose not to implement what we recommend they do need to give reasons rather than a bland lukewarm response to the recommendations that we so carefully drafted. Members commented that the tone was too defensive and that it was not a helpful response overall. The report makes clear that End of Life Care issues are everyone's responsibility (not just hospices), but the response demonstrates just the silo thinking we were suggesting needed to be avoided here. Progress can only be made here by taking imaginative initiatives, particularly in the work with the third sector, and there is no evidence of that being understood.

On the specifics we would make the following comments:

On response to Rec 1

When we receive a briefing on the Unplanned Care workstream of the Integrated Commissioning process we will expect more detail on specific plans for improving End of Life Care.

On response to Rec 2

We will expect the 6 month update to demonstrate clearly that use of CMC

has increased considerably across all care settings not “as many as possible”.
<p>On response to Rec 3</p> <p>The response says this training is for “all doctors and nurses directly employed”. What we asked for is “nurses and Health Care Assistants” as this is where the problems arose and it does not address ‘secondments’ at care homes which is what we asked.</p>
<p>On response to Rec 4</p> <p>This does not address the key issue which was with the behavior of LAS staff when transferring people from care homes to the Homerton.</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 5</p> <p>Good response</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 6</p> <p>Good response.</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 7</p> <p>We will need to see evidence.</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 8</p> <p>Good response.</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 9</p> <p>Connect Hackney exists and it is good that Hackney has it. It is best placed to make inroads on this problem, it also has a ‘Connecting Carers’ strand. This Recommendation is about getting older people to engage with Advanced Care Planning well before they or their partner hits crisis point. It is a positive step. It seems a wasted opportunity not to embrace this. It was suggested at the Commission meeting last night that the Big Lottery Fund’s restrictions on their type of activity might prevent this. This needs to be investigated. If Connect Hackney can’t do this who within HCVS might take this on? The third sector is vital here if more people are to be encouraged to make Advanced Care Plans.</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 10</p> <p>The response recognises that this is an issue, but does not say what actions will be taken. The recommendation is about the responsibility of many organisations in End of Life Care discussions and not just the local hospice.</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 11</p> <p>Good response</p>
<p>On the response to Rec 12</p> <p>The recommendation is quite specific, whereas the response is very general. As part of our review, we spoke to the Charedi community. We would like to know that their specific concerns are being addressed.</p>

On the response to Rec 13
Good response.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ann Munn
Chair of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

cc Members of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission
Anne Canning

