

## Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

Hackney Council  
Room 118  
Town Hall  
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Reply to: [jarlath.oconnell@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:jarlath.oconnell@hackney.gov.uk)

12 July 2019

Mr David Maher  
Managing Director  
City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group  
*by email*

Dear David

### **Consultation on Aligning Commissioning Policies in NEL**

Thank you for your letter of 8 July providing the additional information we requested at our 13 June Commission meeting when we discussed the above consultation.

The data on numbers and costings at page 21 is most helpful to understand the impact of this proposed change. It would have been helpful had this page been included in the original consultation and it would have allowed for a far more focussed debate at the June Health in Hackney. It may well have allayed some concerns that members had.

The second section on '*Current policies where criteria is proposed to be changed*' is clear and illustrates how much of these changes rationalise the overly complex system which has developed.

The other data you provide was less helpful as the information on 'New' policies doesn't contrast it with the previous situation.

Members of the Commission remain concerned about the '*effective % change in activity*' across a lot of these procedures in City and Hackney e.g. near 50% drop in spinal surgery, 88% in chalazia removal, 100% spinal injections etc. The drop in cataract surgery might just be 4.9% but this still means 29 people in Hackney projected to not now receive cataract surgery in the next 12 months, which is a very life limiting condition for elderly people.

In considering whether to implement these proposals we ask that you ensure the changes are based on clinical reasoning and not cost cutting. We would

be concerned if City and Hackney is changing its eligibility criteria to that of the most restrictive comparator, essentially amounting to a race to the bottom.

I also attach the minutes of our 13 June meeting which sets out the concerns to these changes which were raised by Members, local residents and GPs at our meeting and I hope you will include these as part of your consultation feedback.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Ben Hayhurst**  
**Chair of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission**

cc Alison Glynn, Deputy Director Transformation Delivery, NHS North East London CSU  
Members of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission  
Cllr Feryal Clark, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member Health, Social Care, Leisure and Parks  
And Chair of City and Hackney Integrated Commissioning Board  
Jon Williams, Director, Healthwatch Hackney

