

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 8 February 2023 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	Item No 8
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OUTLINE

Attached please find the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 Jan 2023.

Matters Arising from 16 Nov

Action at 4.4e

ACTION:	<i>CE of Homerton Healthcare to provide breakdown of the elective care waiting list by category.</i>
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This is awaited.

Action at 5.11

ACTION:	<i>The Chair to write to the CE of NHS NEL to progress the issues on changes to dentistry commissioning arising from this discussion.</i>
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This is in progress.

Matters Arising from 5 Dec

Action at 5.4g

ACTION:	<i>Group Director AHI to provide a brief update to the Chair on the funding position for next year (on Fair Cost of Care) once it is known.</i>
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This will be followed up.

Matters Arising from 12 Jan

1) Actions were all work programme additions. See updated work programme.

2) Response to written question from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

Here is a written response on behalf of Cllr Kennedy to a written question from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, asked by the Chair:

17 January 2023

Dear Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

You put the following question to Cllr Kennedy at Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission meeting on 12 Jan as part of the Cabinet Member Question Time. The Chair asked this question on your behalf as you were unable to attend:

“In all aspects of the Primary Care Network (including protecting a local voice for Hackney), can Cllr Kennedy reassure the public that there is a target-based plan to reduce dependence upon – and ultimately cease commissioning – any social care, health and mental health providers using zero-hour contracts, in Hackney?”

Cllr Kennedy asked officers to contribute to his response and their replies are below:

From Helen Woodland (Group Director, Adults, Health and Integration)

"It's a bit of a broad question, and as you know the health and care sector isn't homogeneous. In relation to Homecare, which is usually where we see most zero hour contracts, we already commission according to the Unison ethical care charter. This means that for providers we commission through our framework we pay LLW, and we ask them to minimise the use of zero hours contracts, amongst other things. However, if we spot purchase a homecare package, which we do for about 20% of our care packages currently, then we do not commission those according to the Unison Care charter.

We are re-commissioning all our homecare provision this year, so that it is a patch based model and that we do not do any spot purchasing except in exceptional circumstances (for example, very specialist care packages that cannot be provided by any providers on our framework). This means that all of our home care providers will be on a framework, and will be commissioned according to the Unison ethical care charter. However, there are occasions where workers want zero hours contracts because they suit their circumstances and lifestyle (for example, many of our care workers are parents or carers, and value the flexibility of being able to work irregular hours, or even work for multiple agencies). So we generally commission according to the principle that providers offer permanent contracts to any member of staff who wants that form of employment, but that they offer flexible forms of employment, which may include zero hours contracts, for those who want them. We do stipulate that we expect the majority of staff to be on more stable contracts however, and that we would expect no more than 20% of employment to be offered on a zero hours basis.

The majority of care homes are not commissioned by us as such, rather we purchase one or more beds for individuals in the home, so it is more difficult to influence employment terms and conditions. However, there is a shortage of staff across all care settings, so we have not found that there is a shortage of permanent contracts available in the care sector.

I am not aware of a significant amount of zero hours contracting in health, but Richard and Kirsten may want to comment more around that."

Response from Richard Bull (Primary Care Commissioning, NHS NEL)

"NHS NEL Primary Care Commissioning doesn't hold information on zero hour contracts within GP Practices and I doubt there is any. GP Practices of course can use bank staff or locums when they need staff on a temporary basis". He added that "NHS NEL would not have grounds to cease commissioning from a particular primary care provider if they were using (any) zero hour contracts".

I hope this helps. It is a complicated situation across both adult social care and health on this point.

Regards
Jarlath

3. Copy of City and Hackney Health Inequalities Summit - Case Studies Brochure tabled by Cllr Kennedy on the night

The "Case Studies Brochure" from the 11 Jan 2023 event was tabled by Cllr Kennedy as part of his Cabinet Member Question Time session and was discussed extensively. As it is very large file it isn't attached but can be linked to here

<https://northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/news/first-city-hackney-health-inequalities-summit-takes-place/>

A text only version is here

<https://northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Health-Inequalities-Summit-full-case-studies-outline.pdf>

ACTION

The Commission is requested to agree the minutes and note the matters arising above and attached.