

**Notes of a meeting of  
NHS's Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group  
To consult on proposed changes to clinical procedures  
Based on new evidence based criteria  
Held at the Ruth Winston Centre, Green Lanes, N13  
On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017**

1. **Attendance:** Dr. Abedi, M. Eaton, Gail Hawksworth (All from Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group) + circa 50 members of the public.
2. **Consultation to Date:** Consultation with GPs' and the public have been ongoing since March and would continue to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Purpose of New Procedures:** To introduce new evidence-based criteria to determine new procedures for many treatments. A handout at the meeting covered 13 procedures including bunions, hearing aids, knee replacement surgery, hernias, vasectomies, prolapses, and homeopathy.
4. **New referral Procedure:** As a result of the new evidence it had been concluded that the NHS were undertaking unnecessary operations where alternatives existed. In future a GP would no longer refer a patient directly for treatment: Instead the GP's referral would be vetted by the Clinical Commissioning Group which would decide which cases should be referred for treatment.
5. **Meeting reaction to the new procedures:**
  - a. The idea that the NHS was conducting unnecessary operations was rubbish and the reason for the review was to cut costs. In reply, it was stated that cost cutting was denied.
  - b. Why were new procedures being considered on evidence seen by the local CCG and not applying NICE recommendations? In reply it was stated that NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) had not issued full guidance in all areas.
  - c. A questioner asked why there was a need for GPs' to have their referrals vetted as this just added another layer of bureaucracy.
  - d. Monty Meth (Over 50's Forum) sought reassurance that feedback from the public consultation would be taken into account. He also complained that he had seen none of the evidence on which the proposed changes were based.
  - e. A questioner asked if there was evidence that the public supported the proposed changes: In answer it was stated that there was universal support for many of the proposals, but opposition to others.
  - f. Future consultation: the meeting was promised further consultation if current recommendations were changed, but the period of consultation was currently unclear.
  - g. A member of the public said that he did not understand why the NHS was being localized and offered the opinion that NICE should be dealing with the issues discussed at this meeting, not the CCG.
6. **Funding:** The issue of NHS funding was raised and the CCG representatives were asked why they were engaging in what appeared cost cutting instead of backing the public in seeking more money from government: In reply it was stated that the medical profession urged better funding at several bodies and that Enfield's historic underfunding was being addressed with the capitation level expected to be met in future years.

**D. S. Honor**  
**23/6/2017**