

Adult and Community PDS Committee: 29th March 2011

Questions to the Chairman of the A&C PDS Committee

From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group

CLOSURE OF BROMLEY MYTIME 'FRESH START' AND 'FRESH START PLUS' MEDICAL REFERRAL EXERCISE SESSIONS AT THE PRIORY, DARWIN, PAVILION, ERIC LIDDEL, & WEST WICKHAM LEISURE CENTRES.

1. Costings for the Current Scheme

What was the:

(a) total budget for, and

(b) income from, Fresh Start Programmes for 2008/09; 2009/10; 2010/11?

(c) income for 2010/11 for (i) Fresh Start members (ii) Fresh Start Plus members for each centre?

(d) breakdown of 2010/11 costs of running FS only sessions at each centre?

(e) additional 2010/11 costs for FSP at each centre?

2. Users

How many:

(a) users were registered in 2010/11 as (i) FS and (ii) FSP per centre?

(b) sessions are currently held at each centre?

(c) Fresh Start members are estimated will inducted in the shorter 12 week sessions at the Walnuts and the Spa, under the new 2011/12 scheme?

3. Fresh Start Plus Users

(a) What would be the hourly rate, and cost for each centre of retaining FSP sessions, using a 'coach', instead of a qualified 'fitness advisor'?

(b) Why have decisions to cut this valued scheme been taken at short notice, behind 'closed doors', without a report to the Council or Bromley PCT Board?

From Jean Stout, Chair, Community Care Protection Group

1. Equality Impact Assessment.

(a) Why has there been no public consultation with users and carers on the closure of these sessions?

(b) Why are local sessions in areas of the most deprivation ie Ramsden/the Crays; Mottingham: and most isolated ie Biggin Hill, being closed?

(c) Why has there been no EIA carried out?

2. Costings for the New 2011/12 Scheme

(a) PCT funding for the scheme has been greatly increased, so why are hours of fitness advisors are being cut, and trained, experienced and qualified staff lost?

(b) Will fewer people will be inducted, with a shorter programme?

(c) Will the additional funding be spent on administration? How much will this cost?

3. Future of Local Fresh Start and Fresh Start Plus Sessions.

(a) Will this Committee scrutinise this withdrawal of a successful scheme which penalises people with conditions and disabilities who can't exercise in the normal way, who are prepared to take responsibility for their health and invest time and money?

(b) Will the Committee investigate the feasibility of obtaining an alternative provider?

Your questions have been forwarded to Bromley PCT and Bromley MyTime as the organisations responsible for commissioning and providing these services. We are awaiting a detailed response to the questions and will forward the answers to you as soon as they are received. Answers to your questions will also be included as Matters Arising at the next meeting of the Committee in June.

In response to your final question regarding the scrutiny of any withdrawal of the scheme, the Committee is aware that in the answer to your question to the Portfolio Holder meeting on 18th March, the Director of Public Health advised the Portfolio Holder that the PCT would continue to fund the Fresh Start programme, with the an increase in the amount of funding available for 2011/2012 in order to pilot an extension of the scheme for patients identified through NHS checks. As you are aware, there is a requirement for any providers of NHS-funded services to consult the PDS Committee regarding any substantial variations in services. If it becomes apparent that there will be a substantial variation to the service in the future this Committee would expect to be consulted as a matter of course.

Thank you for bringing this issue to the Committee's attention.