

Deputation on Sexual Health Services to Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 11 Sept 2013

We apologise for the short notice of this deputation. We have only recently been alerted to the issue and have therefore submitted this deputation for your consideration at short notice. We thank the board and the chair of the board for their indulgence in receiving this deputation. Because of the short notice we have only been able to put two names and addresses to this deputation. However many people were involved in discussions about this issue and we could send a full list to the chair after the meeting if he requests it.

We the undersigned (and others) are concerned about the possible competitive tendering and hence privatisation of Brighton and Hove sexual health services. As lay people we may not fully understand the current position. We will layout our understanding of the position in point 2 below.

1 We seek the following from the board:

1.1 a clarification of the current position (see our understand in point 2 below)

1.2 an undertaking that putting sexual health services out to competitive tender will only be undertaken if there is clear evidence that such a process will lead to an improvement in sexual health services for the people of Brighton and Hove and that this evidence will be made available publically.

1.3 a reassurance that if there is evidence that sexual health services will be improved by putting them out to competitive tender then to ensure the best possible service the CCG or other commission body will insist that the current NHS providers in the field of sexual health will be expected to submit a tender.

1.4 an explicit reassurance that any potential restructuring of sexual health services resulting from competitive tendering will not result in any adverse sexual health services for the people of Brighton and Hove.

1.5 an undertaking that any potential restructuring of the sexual health services due to competitive tendering will not result in adverse employment conditions for current staff in the area of sexual health in Brighton and Hove.

2 Our understanding of the current position.

Since April 2013 the NHS Commissioning Board is responsible for commissioning HIV treatment, while local authorities remain responsible for the commission of sexual health and genito-urinary medicine (GUM) services, and HIV prevention and testing. At the moment many of the facilities in sexual health are shared. Plans to put sexual health services out to competitive tender could result in a clear cut separation of such services. This separation may mean that if a part of the sexual health service goes to an outside provider then the BSUH trust may find that continued independent HIV treatment and care is unviable. This may have huge implications for HIV patients. They might either lose a vital service or have these services transferred to a different or new provider.

Signed
D A Baker

Ken Kirk