

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by members of the public who either live or work in the area of the authority.

The following written question has been received from a member of the public.

(a) Dave Baker

“The response dated 7 Nov. 2013 to our deputation to the Health and Wellbeing Board on Sexual Health Provision in Brighton and Hove on 11 September 2013 is inadequate. In one item we sought an undertaking that competitive tendering would only be undertaken if there was clear evidence that it would improve service for patients. Your response only listed official and governmental guidance. Those documents supported competitive tendering on policy grounds and were not evidence based. Our question remains: what empirical evidence exists that shows that competitive tendering provides an improved service for patients? There is a strong possibility, if not mounting evidence, that competitive tendering may endanger patients’ health and that you and the CCG will be responsible for it by taking non-empirically based decisions.”

(b) Ken Kirk

The Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the city. If we project forward a number of years, based upon the evidence we have of B&H CCG’s implementation of the Health and Social Care Act, then B&H healthcare system will be fragmented into a large number of contracts, some with third sector organisations, some with private health companies like Virgin Healthcare or BUPA, and those health services that private companies don’t want, probably because there’s no profit to be made, left to the publicly run NHS health trusts. However, what will be lost will be the coordination and cooperation that we now have in our unified NHS, with patient health as its only objective. For example, you may be aware that there’s a likelihood that sexual health services will be offered to tender. Does hiving off sexual health services, with the staff currently employed in Sexual Health forced to become employees of a private company, fit with B&H H&WB’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment? Is privatising Sexual Health services really an evidence-based approach to the strategic planning of Brighton and Hove’s health and wellbeing needs?

“The policy intention [for JSNAs] is that local services which impact upon health and wellbeing will be based on evidence of local health and wellbeing needs and assets, including the views of the community; meaning that services and the way in which they are provided meet local needs.” Section 3.3 ‘What are Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies?’ of Statutory Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223842/Statutory-Guidance-on-Joint-Strategic-Needs-Assessments-and-Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategies-March-2013.pdf