



Healthier Communities Select Committee

Report title: NHS Migrant Charging

Date: 15 January 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: John Bardens, Scrutiny Manager

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of the attached paper is to provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with a briefing on Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust's arrangements for charging those not eligible for free healthcare.

- Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the report.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of the attached paper is to provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with a briefing on Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust's arrangements for charging those not eligible for free healthcare.
- 1.2. This includes the Trust's use of the credit reference agency, *Experian*, as part of eligibility checks (see attached *Health Service Journal* article for further context); details about the information shared with the Home Office as part of the recovery of costs of treatment; and the Trust's plans to review the current arrangements.
- 1.3. Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign raised concerns about migrant charging at Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust and produced a briefing for the Mayor and Councillors in August 2019.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The Council's *Corporate Strategy 2018-2022* outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents over the next four years and includes the following priority relevant to this item: *Delivering and defending: health, social care and support* - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

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8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

10. Background papers

- 10.1. [**Revealed: Mass use of credit check firm to find NHS patients to charge**](#), *Health Service Journal*, 30th September 2019
- 10.2. [**NHS patient debt: guidance on administration and data sharing**](#), Department of Health and Social Care, 5th April 2019
- 10.3. The “hostile environment” and charges for NHS care: Briefing for Lewisham MPs and Councillors, *Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign*, 31st August 2019

11. Report contact

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