



## Healthier Communities Select Committee

### Report title: Migrant charging update

**Date:** 8 September 2021

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with a comprehensive update on on Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust's review of its arrangements for charging those patients not eligible for free NHS treatment and care.

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

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

**15 January 2020** – Committee considers initial report on migrant charging and formally refers its views to the Trust and to Mayor & Cabinet.

**18 March 2020** – The Trust responds outlining the actions its taking, which includes setting up an independently-chaired oversight panel to review practice.

**July 2021** – The final report and recommendations of the panel produced (appendix B).

**8 September 2021** – Committee to consider the panel's findings and recommendations.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with a comprehensive update on Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust's review of its arrangements for charging those patients not eligible for free NHS treatment and care.
- 1.2. In January 2020 the committee wrote to the Trust outlining its concerns about the Trust's reported use of Experian to check patients' eligibility for free healthcare (**appendix A**). In response to the concerns raised by the committee and others the Trust established an independently-chaired oversight panel to review its practices. The panel produced its final report in July 2021 (**appendix B**), which has been provided to the committee for its consideration this evening.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are recommended to consider the findings of 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:
  1. ***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

### Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **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. Report contact**

10.1. *John Bardens, Scrutiny Manager, [john.bardens@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:john.bardens@lewisham.gov.uk) 020 8314 9976*

### **Is this report easy to understand?**

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>