

HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda Item 50

Brighton & Hove City Council

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|-------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Subject: | E-Petitions | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 27 January 2010 | | |
| Report of: | Director of Strategy & Governance | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Giles Rossington | Tel: 29-1038 |
| | E-mail: | giles.rossington@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Key Decision: | No | | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive the following E-petitions that have been running on the Council's website and were to be presented directly to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. E-PETITIONS:

- 2.1.1 To receive the following e-petition to be presented by Mr. John Kapp and signed by 445 people:

"We the undersigned petition the Council to request that the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee give consideration to the proposal for a new social enterprise company to contract with the NHS commissioners to provide free complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) vouchers for use in the existing CAM centres in the city, as described in section 9.39 of www.reginaldkapp.org. 'Proposal for a new company to provide free CAM on NHS' and to make a recommendation to the council as to whether or not to declare support for the proposal."

2.1.2 Additional Information to the petition:

Three out of four patients say that they want free CAM on the NHS, and as they pay for the NHS in their taxes they should get their wish. CAM is preventative which only the rich can now afford. Post Darzi, the NHS is supposed to provide prevention and remove health inequalities. The NHS commissioners are about to consult the public on the next 5 year commissioning plan. Please sign the petition to persuade the NHS to put free provision of CAM into their plan.

- 2.1.3 Additional information provided by Mr Kapp is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

- 2.2.1 To receive the following e-petition which was originated by Ms. Earl-Gray and signed by 21 people:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to request that the local NHS discount the possible provision of free Complimentary Alternative Medicine (CAM) in Brighton and Hove and put resources into proven medical therapies.”

2.2.2 **Additional Information to the petition:**

These treatments have no sound evidence base to support their use. The NHS has a duty to the public to provide treatments that have been proven to work through fair testing in clinical trials. The majority of research into the effectiveness of CAM treatments fails to meet the standards required of fair clinical trials, and therefore the usefulness and effectiveness of many, if not all, CAM treatments remains unknown.

Brighton and Hove's NHS commissioners will soon consult the public on the next five year commissioning plan. Please ensure they do not make the mistake of wasting public money on unproven treatments.

Please sign this e-Petition on the Brighton & Hove Council website to ensure the NHS commissioners make evidence-based decisions about how to spend their money.

- 2.2.3 Additional information provided by Ms Earl-Gray is included as **Appendix 2** to this report.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: additional information supplied by Mr Kapp

Appendix 2: additional information supplied by Ms Earl-Gray