



Cllr Richard Watts
Leader of the Council

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Vanessa Piper
Head of Primary Care, North Central and East London
NHS England (London Region)

Via email

Dear Ms Piper

Roman Way Medical Centre

Thank you for your letter of 28th March regarding the resignation of the GPs at Roman Way Medical Centre, and for inviting Islington Council to respond to your consultation on the provision of future GP services for the practice's registered patients. The council notes that the current options are 1) to procure another practice or organisation to provide services for patients; and 2) to ask patients to register with another nearby practice.

The council also fully supports NHS England's engagement with patients registered at Roman Way Medical Centre to seek their views on future provision.

When the NCL Joint Commissioning Committee considers options for the future of Roman Way at its meeting in June 2018, Islington Council is keen to see the committee take a strategic view of GP provision in the area, which takes account of future population growth in the area arising from three major housing schemes.

The council strongly endorses the first of the two options set out: to procure another practice or organisation to provide services for patients. Our reasons are set out below.

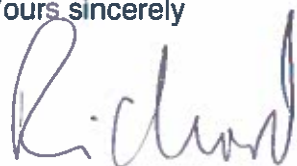
- Roman Way Medical Centre is located in an area of high deprivation and with a high proportion of social housing, both of which are associated with poorer health status.
- The practice is close to 43 sheltered homes, whose residents are likely to be less able to travel greater distances to access GP services.

- The area is experiencing high population growth: up to 1,500 homes or 3,000 additional residents arising from sites in development or in line for development.
- Although seven practices are within a 1-mile distance (20 minute walk) from Roman Way, four of these are small practices and three of these are in premises where opportunities for physical expansion are extremely limited. Therefore if the list were to be dispersed, we would be concerned regarding the workforce- and estates-related capacity at the neighbouring practices to accommodate growth in their own registered list size.

Should the first option be considered unviable, the council would want to be assured that there is sufficient capacity to absorb the dispersed patient population, in particular at the two larger practices likely to absorb the greatest proportion of the patient list at Roman Way Medical Centre, which our analysis suggests are Islington Central Medical Centre and the Goodinge Group Practice. The council also notes that, with pressures arising from other housing development, particularly at the Holloway Prison site, capacity at the closest practice to the site (Partnership Primary Care Centre) should also be reviewed.

I am enclosing with this letter more detailed local information and analysis which has informed the Council's strong preference for option one. I trust you will find this information useful when developing the options paper for consideration by the NCL primary care committee, and if you have any further questions or queries regarding this information, please contact Ian Sandford, Public Health Strategist at ian.sandford@islington.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Richard Watts



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