

Resources : Legal & Governance

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

Meeting of the City Council – 7th July, 2021: Urgent Item of Business

I attach a Notice of Motion regarding GP services, given by Councillor Jack Scott and to be seconded by Councillor Ruth Milsom, together with details of two proposed amendments to that Motion.

It is proposed that the Motion and amendments will be considered by the City Council at its meeting tomorrow as an urgent item of business, under Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution, on the recommendation of the Chair (the Lord Mayor, Councillor Gail Smith).

It is intended that the Motion will replace the Notice of Motion Regarding "Investing In Early Years" (Item 8 on the agenda), which would be withdrawn by the mover (Councillor Jayne Dunn) with the consent of the seconder (Councillor Mick Rooney) and the meeting (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.11).

The reason for urgency and explanation of why it was not possible to submit this motion in accordance with the usual timescale, is outlined below:-

- General practice is coming under intense pressure and this is reaching crisis point in Sheffield as well as elsewhere;
- A group of senior councillors met with senior general practitioners, CCG commissioners and the Director of Public Health on the evening of 30th June. At that meeting, the councillors were left in no doubt about the seriousness and urgency of the situation. The GPs were keen for support from the Council. In particular, to help the public understand the pressure on general practice at the moment.
- As the meeting only took place on Wednesday 30th June, this did not allow for a Notice of Motion to be submitted within the usual timescale.

Yours sincerely,



**GILLIAN DUCKWORTH
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & GOVERNANCE**

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 7TH JULY, 2021

Urgent Item of Business

(pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 26)

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “GP SERVICES” - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JACK SCOTT AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RUTH MILSOM

That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that general practices across the country are at breaking point, putting the whole of the NHS at risk;
- (b) believes that Primary Care is the ‘Bedrock of the NHS’, dealing with around 90% of patient contacts, and acknowledges that, currently, GPs and their teams are at the forefront of helping communities recover from the pandemic; caring for people whose mental and physical health has been affected by Covid 19; and leading the Vaccination programme; whilst at the same time, they are dealing with the backlog of people on waiting lists elsewhere in the NHS;
- (c) notes that:-
 - i) in 2016 the Conservative Government promised to increase GPs by 5,000 in 5 years but that the overall number of GPs has seen little growth since 2015;
 - ii) the number of patients per practice is 22% higher than it was in 2015 but the GP workforce has not grown with this demand; there are now just 0.46 fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients in England – significantly below the average number of physicians in comparable nations;
 - iii) there is a growing backlog of care in the NHS; long waits for specialist treatment are skyrocketing and pressure on Accident and Emergency Departments is reaching pre-pandemic levels;
 - iv) General practice and general practitioners are under pressure; a recent survey by the British Medical Association (BMA) showed high levels of mental health conditions and exhaustion; resignations from General Practice are also rising, and practices are shutting down at record rates; and
 - v) it is becoming increasingly difficult to get GPs to practice in deprived areas; as a result, those communities who most need good primary care are least able to access it; and

(d) calls upon the Government and the Chief Executive of the NHS to take urgent measures to address this crisis, including:-

- (i) delivering on previously unmet promises to increase the number of GPs by at least 5,000;
- (ii) ensuring that incentives are in place to meet the primary care needs of communities with the greatest need;
- (iii) reducing red tape and bureaucracy by exploring with the profession which regulatory and administrative tasks need to be kept and which don't;
- (iv) rebalancing the health system by encouraging better outreach work from secondary care; and
- (v) increasing investment in community-based health-promoting activities to address the underlying causes of poor health.

COUNCIL MEETING – 7TH JULY 2021

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS - NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “GP SERVICES”

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Steve Ayriss, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (b) and (c) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (b) to (d) as new paragraphs (d) to (f):-
 - (b) thanks those who work in the NHS for their commitment to their patients, often putting themselves at risk for the sake of others;
 - (c) congratulates NHS staff past and present on being awarded the George Cross for their courage, compassion and dedication;
2. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (e)(vi) as follows:-
 - (e)(vi) half of GP surgeries in England are considered by professionals to be unfit for purpose, and ill-equipped to meet future demand, while lack of expertise and capacity constraints have been highlighted as important barriers to GPs accessing infrastructure funding;
3. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (f)(vi) as follows:-
 - (f)(vi) fundamental reform of investment in the primary care estate, including action to address the barriers to accessing current capital funding streams;

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson (tbc), seconded by Councillor Alison Teal (tbc)

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (e) to (g) as follows:-

- (e) notes with concern that the US private health care company, Centene, is now the single largest provider of Primary Care in the NHS;
- (f) opposes privatisation and outsourcing in the NHS and will write to the Government and Sheffield MPs urging them to support an NHS reinstatement bill; and

- (g) notes with concern that administering and patient opt-out of the NHS “data grab” (requiring GPs to handover all their patients data to be pseudonymised) places yet another additional burden on GP practices when they need it least, and will urge the Government to scrap this data grab.