

Template letter for Councillors

Dear Councillor

I am writing to you as one of your constituents to urge you to do everything you can to oppose the disastrous closure of the Charlie Chaplin Children's Ward at Ealing Hospital on 30th June and the plans to exclude children from the A&E.

Ealing CCG have taken the decision to close these services, despite there being grave concerns that seriously ill children could be put at risk.

Under the CCG plans ambulances would no longer bring sick children to Ealing's A&E. However the vast majority of seriously ill children are carried in by their parents or carers anyway. These children would now only be seen by a GP in the Urgent Care Centre, where they are supposed to be assessed, treated and stabilised before being transferred to another hospital.

This a serious break with current standards of care and treatment of sick children in Ealing who are assessed and treated by a Paediatric Consultant and specialist trained Senior Nurse in the A&E and would be able to stay overnight for observation and assessment. It would be a hugely risky experiment to take with Ealing's children and Paediatric specialists have expressed serious concerns about its safety.

Families quite rightly expect their children to be seen by the A&E staff – A&Es don't exist for adults only - otherwise **they are not a proper A&E.**

How can the CCG make such a decision without publishing figures for the number of children that will be affected? Up to 7000 children could be brought in to A&E by their parents and carers, quite apart from those using the ambulance service. They will have to be assessed and treated by the Urgent Care Centre and transferred elsewhere.

Even supposing that a child can be safely treated how can we be sure that the London Ambulance Service, which is already failing to meet crucial target times, can move seriously ill children to another hospital quickly enough. Given the pressure they are under it is likely they may consider a child as low priority or safe once they are in Ealing Hospital so how can children be safely and urgently be transferred?

In any event the delay involved through two lots of assessments and prolonged journeys for families is unacceptable.

The CCG are planning to press ahead regardless of the risks to the safety of our children in Ealing and therefore we need to see our local Councillors standing up for residents and their families.

We urge you to:-

1. Call on Ealing Council to urgently take the decision to go for legal action before it is too late.
2. Publically oppose the closure of the Children's Ward and the plans to exclude children from the A&E.
3. Urge the Council to make a Public Statement condemning the closures.

I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of any action that you have taken.

Yours Sincerely