

Motion 9(c) – Accepted amendment

Motion to: Council

18 March 2025

Subject: Norwich Walk-in Centre

Proposer: Councillor Giles

Seconder: Councillor Jones

Councillor Giles is amending his own motion as follows:

Inserting the following under the heading “This Council **BELIEVES**” before the “This Council **RESOLVES** to:”:

- 1) **“That the Norwich Walk-in Centre is a vital, accessible service which provides support to thousands of residents every year.**
- 2) **That, if the Walk-in Centre was to close, extra pressure will be placed on GP practices, community pharmacies, A&E departments and other services already struggling with demand.**
- 3) **The amount of additional funding proposed for GPs across Norfolk and Waveney is not commensurate to additional pressure they are likely to face.**
- 4) **That as a hotspot for health inequalities, Norwich requires additional primary care provision in the form of the Walk-in Centre under the principle of proportionate universalism.”**

Inserting the following as resolution 2): **“State our support for the continuation of the Vulnerable Adults Service Inclusion Hub on Westwick Street.”**

Subsequently renumbering the resolutions.

Inserting the words **“and requesting a meeting with the Chair and CEO to discuss our concerns”** at the end of resolution 3).

Inserting the following after resolution 3 so it becomes resolution 4): **“Ask the Integrated Care Board to illustrate that any changes in service provision will not reduce access to primary care for locally identified PLUS inclusion health groups, including asylum seekers and refugees, those engaged in the criminal justice system, those experiencing homelessness, and sex workers/exploited women.”**

Inserting the following as resolution 5) **“Recommend the ICB seek the advice of the Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health to ensure ICB**

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service standards meet the best practice for commissioners and service providers.”

Inserting the following as resolution 6): **“Express our concerns to the ICB that the proposed reductions in the Out-of-Hours Service elsewhere in Norfolk and Waveney, and the impact this will have on patient demand in Norwich”.**

Inserting the following as resolution 8) **“Write to the relevant trade unions to express our thanks to their members working in these services subject to consultation for their critical hard work and dedication in this uncertain environment.”**

Inserting the following as resolution 9): **“Call on Government to invest efficiencies generated from the abolition of NHS England into increasing the percentage of the NHS Budget devoted to primary care provision.”**

So that the revised motion becomes:-

This Council notes:

- 1) The Government has a mission to build an NHS fit for the future that is there when people need it.
- 2) The Darzi Review found that the percentage of the NHS Budget devoted to primary care fell by 25% between 2009 and 2021.
- 3) The GP Patient Survey reveals that patient satisfaction levels with general practice has reduced from 80% in 2010 to 34.2% in 2023.
- 4) A majority of the respondents to the Government’s Change NHS consultation listed access to primary care as a top three priority, and a recent poll by the Health Foundation found that 38% of patients regarded access to primary care as their number one priority.
- 5) The Government have increased annual funding for primary care by 7.2%, higher than the 5.8% increase for secondary care. The Government and the British Medical Association have reached agreement on the GP contract for the first time in four years.
- 6) Primary care and resilience is a key ambition in the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board’s Joint Forward Plan.
- 7) The Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS) Health Inequalities Strategic Framework for Action commits the ICS to the guiding principle of proportionate universalism.

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- 8) 40% of residents in Norwich live in the top 20% deprived areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation; residing in Norfolk and Waveney ICS Core 20 areas to combat health inequalities. By contrast 16% of residents across Norfolk and Waveney live in Core 20 areas.
- 9) That the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board has launched a consultation on changes to local healthcare services, including the Norwich Walk-in Centre.
- 10) The proposed changes are:
 - a. Closing the Norwich Walk-in Centre and then investing £1.5m in GP practices across Norfolk and Waveney using a fairer funding formula
 - b. Keeping the Walk-in Centre open but reducing the opening hours from 12 hours per day to four hours per day and then investing £750,000 in GP practices across Norfolk and Waveney using a fairer funding formula
- 11) Previously, in January 2023, Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board launched a consultation on options relating to the Walk-in Centre, including a proposal to close it.
 - a. MPs, councillors, patients, healthcare professionals and residents campaigned city wide to save the Walk-in Centre
 - b. On 14 March 2023 Norwich City Council passed a motion stating its view that the Walk-in Centre should not be closed.
 - c. The Norfolk and Waveney ICB subsequently reversed its decision to close the centre.

This Council **BELIEVES**:

- 1) That the Norwich Walk-in Centre is a vital, accessible service which provides support to thousands of residents every year.
- 2) That, if the Walk-in Centre was to close, extra pressure will be placed on GP practices, community pharmacies, A&E departments and other services already struggling with demand.
- 3) The amount of additional funding proposed for GPs across Norfolk and Waveney is not commensurate to additional pressure they are likely to face.
- 4) That as a hotspot for health inequalities, Norwich requires additional primary care provision in the form of the Walk-in Centre under the principle of proportionate universalism

This Council **RESOLVES** to:

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- 1) Clearly state its support for the continuation of the existing Walk-in Centre service.
- 2) State our support for the continuation of the Vulnerable Adults Service Inclusion Hub on Westwick Street.
- 3) Write to the Integrated Care Board stating this support and requesting a meeting with the Chair and CEO to discuss our concerns.
- 4) Ask the Integrated Care Board to illustrate that any changes in service provision will not reduce access to primary care for locally identified PLUS inclusion health groups, including asylum seekers and refugees, those engaged in the criminal justice system, those experiencing homelessness, and sex workers/exploited women.
- 5) Recommend the ICB seek the advice of the Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health to ensure that ICB service standards meet the best practice for commissioners and service providers.
- 6) Express our concerns to the ICB about proposed reductions in the Out-of-Hours Service elsewhere in Norfolk and Waveney, and the impact this will have on patient demand in Norwich.
- 7) Encourage people to participate in the consultation to make sure the commissioners hear their voices.
- 8) Write to the relevant trade unions to express our thanks to their members working in these services subject to consultation for their critical hard work and dedication in this uncertain environment.
- 9) Call on Government to invest efficiencies generated from the abolition of NHS England into increasing the percentage of the NHS Budget devoted to primary care provision.