

# NEW HUB IN GLADSTONE PARK ANONYMOUS LEAFLET FACT-CHECKING

An **anonymous leaflet containing a number of claims** about the proposed Health & Wellbeing Hub has been circulated. Please see the **facts** below.

## This is about protecting local GP services

- Willesden Green Surgery currently serves 15,000+ patients and has the **least space** per patient in NHS North West London (excl. remote providers).
- Without a new site, the **practice is at risk of closure**

## Not a profit-driven project

→ This is a long-term investment in local NHS services

- **Brent Council** retains **freehold ownership**
- Community hall lease owned and run by a **not-for-profit charity**.
- The GP practice is funding most of the ~£8m cost, with no financial return from the NHS space expected for 30-40 years.

## No methadone services

The pharmacy **will not dispense methadone**. Only specific commissioned pharmacies provide this service.

## Mental health services

- This is a standard GP practice, **not a specialist mental health unit**
- Patients with severe mental illness at Willesden Green Surgery:
  - Are a small number (145 patients out of 15,000) and are stable and supported
  - Have **no known incidents of violence** in the practice's **30-year history**.
- Specialist care during mental health crisis is provided **elsewhere** (e.g. Park Royal).

## Asylum seeker claims

- The GP practice currently has 2 patients under the NHS asylum seeker service (4 in 2024–25).
- This reflects the fact that there are currently no asylum seeker hostels in the practice catchment area.
- The anonymous leaflet refers to a 2023 vision statement, when a number of asylum seekers were registered at the practice. Since then, a dedicated NHS asylum seeker service has been introduced across North West London, significantly reducing registrations at the practice.
- Asylum seekers are individuals seeking safety and are entitled to access NHS care, like everyone else.

## Improving safety of the current Gladstone

**Centre site** → Design improves safety, no evidence it will increase antisocial behaviour

- The **current disused site attracts antisocial behaviour**. Engineers have reported evidence of **human waste** and **drug paraphernalia**.
- The **police** have received **14 calls** in last **6 months** relating to the site, including:
  - A weapon related incident, fires, theft, drug dealing, rough sleeping
- The new hub will **improve safety**:
  - A staffed, well-lit building
  - CCTV and active use
  - Improved natural surveillance

## Parking and transport

- Metropolitan Open Land planning rules require limited parking. Most patients live locally.
- Transport concerns are valid and a full transport assessment will be carried out with resident engagement.

## Community hall use → Not designed for large events.

Capacity can be managed in line with local resident feedback.

- Similar size to current Gladstone Centre hall (~140 sqm)
- **Uses:** low-key wellbeing sessions, community groups, children & family activities

The **full response** can be viewed here: <https://www.willesdengreensurgery.nhs.uk/keyfacts>  
We welcome your **feedback** and are committed to working with residents and refining the plans.