

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee SLaM Place of Safety

Terms of reference

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) is constituted in accordance with the Local Authority Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny Regulations 2013 (the “Regulations”) and Department of Health Guidance to respond to a substantial reconfiguration proposal covering more than one Council. The JHOSC will scrutinise the proposal from South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), and their commissioners, to change the current service model of Place of Safety provision within SLaM from four separate Places of Safety, for the boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Croydon, to one centralised Place of Safety, provided in Southwark for all four boroughs. The relevant commissioners for this proposal from SLaM are Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Local Authorities social care commissioners from all four boroughs.

Context

Places of Safety are provided by SLaM for a number of people who are brought to hospital under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act (MHA). This is a power that police officers can use if someone is in a public place and the police have concerns about them. Across the SLaM there are currently four Place of Safety, or 136 Suites, where people can be brought, assessed and cared for. The four suites are located at each of SLaM’s four hospital sites. Following an assessment in one of these suites, by a doctor and an interview with an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP), the person can either be discharged with or without referral for further mental health support, or admitted for further treatment.

The Joint Committee’s terms of reference are:

1. To undertake all the functions of a statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Regulations and Department of Health Guidance. This includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - (a) To consider and respond to the proposals from SLaM for the provision of one centralised Place of Safety
 - (b) To scrutinise the commissioners of the SLaM proposal and to seek assurance that the proposal is supported and that partnership arrangements between health & social care and across the boroughs are adequate
 - (c) To scrutinise any consultation process
 - (d) This does not include the power to make a report to the Secretary of State (under regulation 23(9) of the Regulations) in relation to the proposal from SLaM for Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Councils. However, any individual authority may make a specific delegation to the JHOSC in

relation to their own power to make such a report on their behalf. The JHOSC will undertake to go through all the necessary steps needed to enable either collective or individual councils to exercise their power to refer to the Secretary of State

Membership

Membership of the Joint Committee will be two named Members from each of the following local authorities:

London Borough of Lambeth;
London Borough of Lewisham;
London Borough of Southwark;
London Borough of Croydon.

Members must not be an Executive Member.

Procedures

Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The Joint Committee will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting. The Chair and Vice-Chair should be members of different participating authorities.

Substitutions

2. Substitutes may attend Joint Committee meetings in lieu of nominated members. Continuity of attendance throughout the review is strongly encouraged however.
3. It will be the responsibility of individual committee members and their local authorities to arrange substitutions and to ensure that the lead authority is informed of any changes prior to the meeting.
4. Where a substitute is attending the meeting, it will be the responsibility of the nominated member to brief them in advance of the meeting

Quorum

5. The quorum of the meeting of the Joint Committee will be 3 members, each of whom should be from a different participating authority.

Voting

6. It is hoped that the Joint Committee will be able to reach their decisions by consensus. However, in the event that a vote is required each member present will have one vote. In the event of there being an equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting will have the casting vote.
7. On completion of the scrutiny review by the Joint Committee, it shall produce a single final report, reflecting the views of all the local authorities involved.

Meetings

8. Meetings of the Joint Committee will normally be held in public and will take place at venues within South London. The normal access to information provisions applying to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny committees will apply. However, there may be occasions on which the Joint Committee may need to make visits outside of the formal Committee meeting setting.
9. Meetings shall last for up to two hours from the time the meeting is due to commence. The Joint Committee may resolve, by a simple majority, before the expiry of 2 hours from the start of the meeting to continue the meeting for a maximum further period of up to 30 minutes.

Local Overview and Scrutiny Committees

10. The Joint Committee will encourage its Members to inform their local overview and scrutiny committees of the work of the Joint Committee on the SLaM Place of Safety proposal
11. The Joint Committee will invite its Members to represent to the Joint Committee the views of their local overview and scrutiny committees on the SLaM Place of Safety proposal and the Joint Committee's work.

Communication

12. The Joint Committee will establish clear lines of communication between itself, SLaM, the CCG, and local authorities. All formal correspondence between the Joint Committee, local authorities and the NHS on this matter will be administered by *Julie Timbrell*, *Southwark Council*) or (*other*) until such officer is appointed.

Representations

13. The Joint Committee will identify and invite witnesses to address the committee, invite comments from interested parties and take into account information from all the local Healthwatch organisations. It may wish to undertake further consultation with a range of stakeholders.

Support

14. Administrative and research support will be provided by the scrutiny teams of the 4 boroughs working together.

Assumptions

15. The Joint Committee will be based on the following assumptions:
 - (a) That the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is constituted to respond to SLaM Place of Safety proposal.

- (b) SLaM, and their commissioners, will permit the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee access to the outcome of any public consultation.