

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: SLaM Mental Health of Older Adults

Terms of Reference

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) is constituted in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and 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 Trust to change to the service model for acute inpatient care for older adults in Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Croydon by designating separate inpatient wards for patients with functional (psychotic, mood and anxiety disorders) and organic (dementia) mental health needs.

The relevant commissioners for the proposal are Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Croydon CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) and the social care commissioners from all four boroughs.

Context

Currently, patients over the age of 65 who are acutely unwell and require inpatient admission are admitted to the first available bed at one of three wards: Aubrey Lewis 1 at the Maudsley Hospital (Southwark); Hayworth at the Ladywell Unit (Lewisham); or Chelsham House at Bethlem Royal Hospital (Bromley).

SLaM proposes to change the current service model by allocating one ward for patients experiencing moderate to severe dementia (at Bethlem Royal Hospital) and two wards for the care of patients with functional mental health conditions (at Maudsley Hospital and the Ladywell Unit). All wards would, however, have multidisciplinary teams able to provide care and treatment for people whatever their diagnosis. Patient and carer preferences would also continue to be accommodated should someone prefer to be cared for on a particular ward.

The proposed service delivery model would be in line with national guidance and recommendations.

The JHOSC's terms of reference are:

1. To undertake all the functions of a statutory JHOSC in accordance with the Regulations and Department of Health Guidance, with the exception of the power to make a report to the Secretary of State in relation to any proposals. By way of illustration, the JHOSC's functions include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) To consider and respond to substantial reconfiguration proposals, from any health provider, which affect Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Croydon.
 - b) To scrutinise the commissioners of the proposal, seek assurance that the proposal is supported, and ensure that partnership arrangements between health and social care, and across the boroughs, are suitable.
 - c) To scrutinise any consultation process related to the proposal.

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 Mental Health of Older Adults 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 Mental Health of Older Adults proposal and the Joint Committee's work.

Communication

12. The Joint Committee will establish clear lines of communication between itself, SLaM, CCGs, and local authorities. All formal correspondence between the Joint Committee, local authorities and the NHS on this matter will be administered by an officer 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 Mental Health of Older Adults proposal.
 - b) SLaM, and their commissioners, will permit the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee access to the outcome of any public consultation.