

Item No. 6	Classification: Open	Date: 13 July 2017	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Establishment of a statutory joint health scrutiny committee to consider South London & Maudsley NHS Trust proposal to change the configuration of mental health acute beds for older adults	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Overview & Scrutiny	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That Southwark enters into a joint committee arrangement with Croydon, Lambeth, and Lewisham Councils to consider proposals from the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

1.2 That the terms of reference of the joint committee are to scrutinize the proposals and to adopt procedure rules appropriate for this purpose

1.3 That Overview & Scrutiny Committee agrees to appoint Southwark members to the joint committee

1.4 That Overview & Scrutiny Committee agrees to appoint two Labour members in accordance with the rules relating to political proportionality

1.5 That the chair of the Healthy Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee reports back to Overview & Scrutiny on the work of the joint committee

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Any older patient requiring admission to an acute inpatient unit is currently admitted to one of the three units (AL 1 – on Maudsley Hospital site (Southwark), Hayworth at University Hospital Lewisham (Lewisham) or Chelsham on the Bethlem Royal site (Bromley). This is irrespective of their diagnosis, presentation and care needs. What this has led to is a mix of patients with different disorders and presentations on each of three wards, which can be distressing for patients (eg a patient with severe anxiety/depression may be distressed by being on a ward with people with severe dementia and agitation). Because admissions tend to be more than a week, and there is relatively slow turnover, compared with, say, an acute medical ward, this means that at any one time there are very few beds available, and patients needing an admission have to be admitted to the first available bed.

In order to improve patient outcomes and ensure most effective use of resources it is proposed that acute admission inpatient units will be configured to manage different patient groups - one focusing on dementia care and the other two on the care of people with psychotic, mood and anxiety disorders (the so-called “functional” disorders). This will enable ward environments to be tailored towards the specific

needs of the patients and staff will be able to specialise and become highly skilled in either dementia or functional illness care. The needs of people with dementia will rightly become an equal priority to that of functional illness.

To meet the needs of local people, the Trust will need one acute dementia unit, which it is proposed to be Chelsham House (Bethlem Royal Hospital site) and two units for people with functional disorders on AL1 (Maudsley Hospital) and Hayworth (University Hospital Lewisham). There are currently 54 beds in all across the 3 sites and the number will remain the same following the proposed changes.

3. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Southwark's constitution empowers Overview & Scrutiny Committee to enter into a joint committee and provide for the council's scrutiny function to be carried out by that joint committee. In this case, Lewisham and Lambeth members have taken the view that this proposal may constitute a substantial variation, and have asked Southwark to participate

4. Community impact statement

4.1 The role of the joint committee is to examine the emerging proposals and scrutinize the consultation arrangements to ensure that all affected communities have the opportunity to participate

5. Resource implications

5.1 All the boroughs involved have extremely tight resources for supporting scrutiny. It is not yet clear how many meetings will be required. It may be necessary to prioritise this over non-statutory scrutiny work. We will negotiate sharing the workload with all the boroughs involved

6. Consultation

6.1 This report is only concerned with establishing the constitutional and administrative arrangements for the joint committee. No consultation has taken place on these matters.

7. Reasons for lateness and urgency

7.1 The draft terms of reference for this joint committee have been repared and circulated to all 4 boroughs after the OSC agenda was published. The committee may need to meet in early September to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

9. AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke	
	Shelley Burke	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 July 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	no	no
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	11 July 2017	