

Southwark Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Background basics at a glance:

NHS Southwark and PCTs

NHS Southwark is also called Southwark Primary Care Trust (PCT). PCTs are key to the NHS, responsible for the planning and securing of health services and improving the health of the local population.

PCTs must ensure the provision of health services in their area such as hospitals, dentists, mental health care, population screening, pharmacies, opticians and GPs.

Collectively, PCTs are responsible for spending around 80% of the total NHS budget. They have their own budgets and set their own priorities, within the overriding priorities and budgets set by their relevant Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and the Department of Health.

Southwark Health and Social Care

Southwark Health and Social Care is a partnership between Southwark PCT and Southwark Council, designed to deliver integrated health and social care services. The integrated senior management team includes both health and social care managers who hold responsibilities across both areas. This is headed by Susanna White, who is one of the few PCT chief executives in the country who is also a strategic director of social care services.

Acute trusts

Acute care is medical and surgical treatment usually provided by a hospital. Acute trusts, alias NHS hospital trusts, provide these secondary health services within the NHS.

Trusts judged to be performing with outstanding efficiency may apply to Monitor to become NHS Foundation Trusts (FTs). This status gives a trust greater independence and financial autonomy. There are 3 key acute trusts in Southwark, which are all FTs (see below).

Social care

Social care includes a wide range of services designed to support people to maintain their independence, enable them to play a fuller part in society, protect them in vulnerable situations and manage complex relationships. Some of the main groups using the services include children or families who are under stress, people with disabilities or mental health problems, and older people who need help with daily living activities. The services deal with many issues and are offered in many locations, such as hospitals, schools, residential homes, or people's own homes.

Social care services are normally run by local councils, sometimes in conjunction with local NHS organisations.

This sub-committee reviews social care issues related to adult care only.

LINKs

LINKs are independent local involvement networks made up of individuals and community groups who work to improve local health and social care services.

A LINK's role includes:

- Asking local people what they think about local health and social care, and suggesting improvements directly to the service providers;
- Looking into specific issues (such as a dirty hospital), making recommendations and getting a response;
- Asking for information and getting answers in a specified amount of time;
- Being able to carry out spot checks to see if services are working well;
- Referring issues to the local 'Overview and Scrutiny Committee' if it seems action is not being taken. (In Southwark the Health and Adult Social Care scrutiny sub-committee would consider referrals from the local LINK.

Substantial Variations

In addition to work on issue-based reviews and performance monitoring, health scrutiny committees have a statutory role under the Health and Social Care Act 2001: NHS bodies are obliged to consult with health scrutiny on proposed variations or developments of health services that are deemed substantial. This means that health scrutiny committees can ultimately refer their related concerns to the Secretary of State or Monitor, where:

- i. the committee is concerned that consultation on substantial variations or developments of services has been inadequate; [and/or]
- ii. where the committee considers that the proposal is not in the interests of the health service.

Southwark's local acute trusts

There are 3 key acute trusts in Southwark - which are all Foundation Trusts (FTs):

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT)

GSTT provides a full range of hospital services for the local communities in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, as well as specialist services for patients across London, the South East and further afield. It has more than 900,000 patient contacts each year and has close to 11,000 staff at its hospitals. GSTT's annual turnover is £900 million and in financial terms it is one of the largest NHS organisations in the UK.

Earlier this year GSTT was selected as the preferred partner to manage community health services in Lambeth and Southwark from April 2010. This will include services such as district and school nursing, health visiting, elderly care and occupational therapy.

Joint committees

In 2005 Southwark and Lambeth Councils formed a joint health scrutiny committee to consider a **substantial variation** – namely the proposed future of crisis services for people with mental health problems in Lambeth and Southwark. The committee referred their concerns to the Secretary of State for Health - with the outcome that £6 million was granted to King's College Hospital to support the remodelling of King's A&E to better accommodate mental health patients.

Southwark has also been involved in South East London and pan-London joint health scrutiny committees.

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (KCH)

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is one of London's largest and busiest teaching hospitals, with a unique profile of strong local services and a focused set of tertiary specialties. KCH is recognised nationally and internationally for its work in liver disease and transplantation, neurosciences, cardiac care and blood cancers.

As a leading university hospital, KCH provides important local, regional, national and international services, as well as training and education for medical, nursing and dental students. The trust provides a full range of local hospital services for over 700,000 people in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark as well patients from Kent, Surrey, Sussex and further afield. It is also a regional and national secondary and tertiary centre for liver disease and transplantation, foetal medicine, neurosciences and neurosurgery, cardiology and cardiac surgery.

King's directly employs approximately 6,500 staff and provides over a million individual patient contacts a year, including approximately 122,000 inpatient stays and day cases, and over 700,000 outpatient appointments.

The trust's annual turnover is £566 million.

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM)

SLaM provides “a full range of mental health services, for people of all ages, from over 100 community sites in south London, three psychiatric hospitals and specialist units based at other hospitals.” Mental health and social care services are provided in partnership with local authorities. Close to 5,000 people annually receive hospital treatment and about 30,000 people receive support through SLaM’s community services. Treatment is also provided for substance misuse.

SLaM’s “local communities have very high levels of mental health needs - up to six times the national rate of psychosis in some areas. There are also high levels of social deprivation and substance misuse, and an ever-changing population, including high numbers of refugees.” SLaM serves residents of Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark (and substance misuse

King’s Health Partners

King’s Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) is a pioneering collaboration between King’s College London, Guy’s and St Thomas’, King’s College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts.

“King’s Health Partners [KHP] is one of only five Department of Health accredited AHSCs in the UK. The partnership brings together an unrivalled range and depth of clinical and research expertise, spanning both physical and mental health.” KHP intends for these combined strengths to improve patient care, for example by applying breakthroughs in medical science at the earliest opportunity.

Southwark Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny - Reports to date:

July 2001	Promoting independence: Scrutiny Panel report of homecare services provided to older people and people with disabilities
April 2003	Modernising Day Care
January 2004	The Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy
July 2004	The Nature and Level of Mental Health Services to Black Male Teenagers
July 2005	Review of Direct Payments in Southwark
December 2006	Adult Carers in Southwark – Identification and Support
July 2007	Review of Older Adults Support in Southwark [OASIS] service
May 2008	Review of ‘A Picture of Health for Outer South East London’ (Statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
March 2010	Southwark Circle: A Brief Update
March 2010	Consultation Report