

South East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

South East London Integrated Care System

The South East London Integrated Care System (ICS), brings together local health and care organisations and local councils to design care and improve population health and healthcare, tackle unequal outcomes and access, enhance productivity and value and help the NHS to support broader social and economic development through shared leadership and collective action.

The Health and Care Act 2022 put the ICS on a statutory footing from 1 July 2022, making them responsible for planning and funding health and care services in the area they cover.

The ICS is a partnership of local health and care providers and local authorities responsible for collaboratively planning and commissioning health and care services for the South East London region, which covers the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

The SEL ICS includes the South East London Integrated Care Board, which takes on the NHS planning functions previously held by clinical commissioning groups, and an Integrated Care Partnership, which brings together the NHS and local authorities as well as health and care providers and partners as equal partners to focus more widely on health, public health and social care and is responsible for developing an integrated care strategy, setting out how the wider health needs of the local population will be met.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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 review and scrutinise any matter, including, when required, substantial reconfiguration proposals, relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services covering more than one Council area from within the South East London Integrated Care System. The ICS is a partnership of local health and care providers and local authorities responsible for collaboratively planning and commissioning health and care services for the South East London region, which covers the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

The Joint Committee's terms of reference are:

1. To carry out overview and scrutiny in relation to planning, provision and operation of health services that cross local authority boundaries in the SEL ICS footprint area. This does not prevent the appointing local authorities from separately scrutinising local health issues. However, there are likely to be occasions on which this committee is the best way of considering how the needs of a local population, which happens to cross council boundaries, are being met.

2. To convene as, and to undertake all the functions of, a statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) when required, 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 proposals from the SEL Integrated Care System (ICS) for the substantial reconfiguration of Health Services in South East London.

 - (b) To scrutinise any consultation process conducted by the SEL ICS, but not to replicate any consultation process.

This does not include the power to make any decision to make a referral to the Secretary of State in relation to the proposals from the SEL ICS for Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. However, any individual borough may make a specific delegation to the JHOSC in relation to their own power to make such a referral on their behalf.¹

Membership

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

London Borough of Bexley;
London Borough of Bromley;
Royal Borough of Greenwich;
London Borough of Lambeth;
London Borough of Lewisham;
London Borough of Southwark.

Members must not be an Executive Member.

¹ This remains the current position with regards to powers to make a referral to the Secretary of State until changes to the reconfiguration process that were introduced through the Health and Care Act 2022 are implemented and new statutory guidance around this is published.

PROCEDURES

Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The Committee will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting, and at the first meeting of every new municipal year. The Chair and Vice-Chair should be members of different participating authorities.

Substitutions

2. Substitutes may attend Committee meetings in lieu of nominated members. Continuity of attendance throughout a 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 4 members, each of whom should be from a different participating authority.

Voting

6. It is hoped that the 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 a 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 East 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 and any proposals contained within the SEL Integrated Care System.
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 work of the SEL ICS and the Joint Committee's work.

Communication

12. The Joint Committee will establish clear lines of communication between the NHS, participating local authorities and itself. All formal correspondence between the Committee, local authorities and the NHS on this matter will normally be administered by officers from the same borough as the Chair.

Representations

13. The Joint Committee will identify and invite witnesses to address the committee and may wish to undertake consultation with a range of stakeholders.

Support

14. Administrative and research support will be provided by the scrutiny teams of the 6 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 carry out overview and scrutiny in relation to planning, provision and operation of health services that cross local authority boundaries in the SEL ICS footprint area and to respond to the work of the Integrated Care System this includes, when required, to respond to any proposals it puts forward and any consultation it may carry out, as well as comment on the public and patient involvement activity in which the NHS has engaged in relation to this matter.
 - (b) That the SEL ICS will permit the Joint Committee access to the outcome of any public consultation phase prior to the formulation and submission of the Joint Committee's response to such public consultations.
 - (c) Efforts will be made to avoid duplication. The individual health overview and scrutiny committees of individual authorities shall endeavour not to replicate any work undertaken by the SEL ICS JHOSC.