

4th August 2010

Dear Ms Kinnair

Restructure of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services in Southwark

Thank you for your response to the scrutiny sub-committee's questions arising from our June 30th meeting and for providing copies of much of your correspondence with Tom White. However, committee members continue to have concerns about both practical questions surrounding the service and the robustness of the decision-making process.

We are considering devoting a special meeting of the committee to this matter and wish to collect further evidence from the PCT/SLAM as to how the service will work and the process undertaken to reach your decision. We would therefore be very grateful if you could promptly provide the fullest information you can on each of our questions below.

GP support

The January report to the PCT board noted that Southwark has 23 practices where at least 1 GP has undertaken specialised training in the management of substance misuse. Please can you advise whether more practices have developed such capacity or plan to, and what is the geographical spread?

The committee is also interested to know if there are GPs or practices which resist additional training or a specialism in this area and your plans to ensure anyone seeking support can access it.

Satellite clinics

We note that the new model requires an additional 100 clients to be supported in satellite clinics. What progress has been made on this? The committee is keen to learn how satellites were identified, how staff are trained, how many people are using the new support and where the new clinics are if possible please?

Self referral

We are aware that the ability of clients to self refer has been raised by a number of stakeholders, and the PCT response has been that this was a development of the Primary Care Strategy, and subject to separate

consultation. However, the chair of Southwark NHS has stated on an email to Mr White that “self referees at Blackfriars will continue to be seen”. Please could you confirm whether this is the case, whether it represents a shift in position and if so, whether it has an impact on the number of satellite clinic places that will be required?

Consultation process

Thank you for responding to our previous question on the consultation process. Please could you set out what impact assessment was undertaken in respect of the client group, and whether there was any specific consultation with or involvement of disabled people? It is the committee’s understanding that the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 would require specific involvement in this area as the outcome affects disabled people disproportionately (as service users). Information on how this obligation was met would reassure the committee that you have addressed all your statutory duties. Apologies for not being clearer on this issue in the initial question which has meant you were unable to provide a sufficient response previously.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Neil Coyle

Cllr David Noakes

Cc: Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
Dr Jane Fryer, Medical Director, NHS Southwark
Sean Morgan, Director of Performance and Corporate Affairs, NHS Southwark
Susanna White, Chief Executive, NHS Southwark
Tom White, Southwark Pensioners Action Group