

Meeting name:	Southwark Health and Social Care Board
Date:	July 2 2009
Report Title:	The Future of NHS Community Services: Implications for Southwark
Classification:	Open
From:	Susanna White Strategic Director of Health & Community Services and Chief Executive of Southwark PCT

Recommendations

1. To note the developments set out in the report.
2. To agree to develop specific options for Southwark Health & Care systems.

Purpose of report

3. To set out the issues for Southwark which arise from changes in NHS Community Services

Developments

4. The strategic position of the PCT to commission integrated services and maintain a Southwark only provider arm has been reconsidered in recent months. A range of factors have contributed to this.
5. There are clear expectations that economies of scale will be achieved by provider arm mergers. The economic downturn and predictions of flat line funding for the NHS from 2011/12 have highlighted this as a key driver.
6. Other local organisations have approached Southwark PCT to 'sound out' and initiate merger opportunities.
7. PCTs are required to have a clear and sustainable way forward by October 2009, for implementation in April 2010. A single borough directly provided unit is not seen as a long-term option.
8. The more general architecture of the NHS in London has been taking shape. There are three key components
 - Acute commissioning in larger units – six sectors in London. Locally, acute commissioning is via the Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham Alliance, now established. This relates to the wider South East London sector.

- Provider separation
- Borough commissioning – there is clear encouragement for closer collaboration on local community based services, including: GPs, Mental Health, Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Key Considerations

9. Initial discussions have taken place with Board members and key Councillors.
10. There is a joint desire to preserve a unique Southwark approach of close integration at strategic and front-line levels.
11. The development of 'Guiding Principles' across the Southwark system has been suggested. These would be designed to inform and influence the processes and decision-making, in any new arrangements.
12. Guiding Principles could include:
 - Presentation of 'whole system' approach and integrated working
 - Southwark specific focus and management in any multi-borough/ agency arrangement
 - Clear financial transparency
 - Strong NHS/Council commissioning arrangements
 - Focus on Southwark population, patients and clients
 - Value for money

Southwark Way Forward

13. Ways to achieve this, within the new architecture have been considered, taking into account the specific issues of children, adults, public health, commissioning and providing.
14. An integrated commissioning approach across the whole system, with specific outcomes to be specified from providers should be able to meet the considerations set out above. Particular consideration will need to be given to adult social care and its permanent operational arrangements.
15. Both NHS Southwark and the Council will need to give consideration to this, both separately and together.

London Position

16. The Borough Commissioning – Council/NHS relationship is being considered by London Councils and NHS London in July. Appendices A, B and C give further details:

27 April 2009
19 May 2009
2 June 2009

London Councils report
Letter from CE Barking & Dagenham Council
Letter from NHS London