



Cllr Mark Williams
Health, Adult Social Care,
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Scrutiny Sub-Committee
160 Tooley Street
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Scrutiny Team
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22 November 2012

Dear Community Leader

Call for Evidence: Kings Health Partners potential merger and the Special Administrator recommendations for the South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Southwark Council's Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee is inviting evidence on the proposed merger of Kings Health Partners and the Trust Special Administrator (TSA) recommendations for South London Healthcare NHS Trust and the wider South East London healthcare system.

The scrutiny committee will be jointly meeting with Lambeth Health Scrutiny committee on the evening of 5th December 2012 at 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH. This meeting will formally consider evidence on the proposals.

Kings Health Partners potential merger

The management boards of Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS foundation trusts are exploring plans for an organisational merger and a strengthened partnership with King's College London, their joint academic partner. The new organisation would have a turnover of about £2.6 billion and around 29,000 staff. The proposal is set out in a Strategic Outline Case, which was approved by each of the Boards and King's College London. The four organisations have collaborated for many years and were accredited by the Department of Health as an academic health sciences centre, King's Health Partners (KHP), in 2009.

KHP cite the good examples of better care for patients across the three trusts and better research being undertaken and translated into treatments that have already been achieved through the creation of an academic health sciences centre. Their proposal to merge is based on accelerating these benefits and removing what they consider are structural and cultural obstacles to greater collaboration.

The Strategic Outline Case can be downloaded at www.kingshealthpartners.org.

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Chief executive: Eleanor Kelly

Southwark scrutiny is undertaking this work to ensure both the potential risks and full costs are understood, as well as the benefits, and these are properly considered by everybody potentially affected by this proposed merger. Evidence is being invited from residents, service user groups, funders, local LINKs/ Healthwatch, unions, MP's and any other relevant stakeholders. The committee will consider all submissions before making our formal recommendations.

Trust Special Administrator recommendations for the South London Healthcare NHS Trust and south east London health system.

The South London Healthcare Trust is made up, principally, of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital in Greenwich, Queen Mary's in Bexley and Princess Royal in Bromley. The three hospitals have long-standing financial issues, including Private Finance Initiative (PFI) liabilities – which account for 16% of the Trusts income. The current deficit of the Trust is £207m.

In July 2012 the Secretary of State for Health enacted, for the first time, the "Regime for Unsustainable NHS Providers" on the Trust, dissolving the previous Board of the Trust and inviting a Trust Special Administrator (TSA), Matthew Kershaw, to develop recommendations.

The draft report is now out for consultation until 13 December 2012. The draft recommendations are for both the Trust and the wider south east London healthcare system. Southwark residents will be directly and indirectly affected.

Significant draft recommendations include:

1. An elective centre for non-complex inpatient procedures (such as hip and knee replacements) at University Hospital Lewisham to serve the whole population of south east London. The proposed elective centre at University Hospital Lewisham would be the largest in the country, serving around 44,000 patients a year if established by 2015/16. This could be delivered as a partnership between local trusts, and possibly an Independent provider.
2. A Community Based Care strategy for south east London.
3. Princess Royal University Hospital has two options. The first is an acquisition by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. This is the preferred option at this stage. The alternative option is to run a procurement process that would allow any provider from the NHS or independent sector to bid to run services on the site.
4. University Hospital Lewisham will no longer have an Emergency care centre, and instead the hospital would have an urgent care centre. Maternity services would also be downgraded.

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5. It is recommended that the Department of Health writes off the debt associated with the accumulation of deficits at South London Healthcare NHS Trust. By 31 March 2013, this is estimated to be £207m. In addition to this there will be ongoing direct support to the operators of Princess Royal University Hospital for 25 years and Queen Elizabeth Hospital for 22 years. This will amount to approximately £564,000,000 to cover excess PFI payments for the lifetime of the PFI contracts.

The summary and full draft report can be downloaded here www.tsa.nhs.uk/ Our committee will also consider these recommendations on the 5th December, we are therefore also seeking your views on the TSA's proposals to inform our work on this issue.

The TSA will be holding a public meeting on the proposals on **Tuesday, 27 November 7 pm to 9 pm at Cambridge House**, 1 Addington Square, Camberwell, London SE5 0HF

How to give evidence

Written evidence can be submitted via email to scrutiny@southwark.gov.uk, or at the address at the top of the page, and should ideally be submitted by **30 November 2012**, in time for the meeting on 5 December. However, evidence can still be considered up until 10 December. This is to allow the committee to consider submissions before making our formal response to both the KHP merger, and the TSA recommendations for South London Healthcare Trust whose consultation period ends on 13th December 2012.

Further information

If you have any queries or access issues, please contact scrutiny project manager Julie Timbrell on 0207 525 0514 or julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

CLlr Mark Williams
Chair; Southwark Council's Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship
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