

17 February 2010

King's College Hospital   
NHS Foundation Trust

Councillor Lorraine Zuleta  
Chair  
Health & Adult Care  
Scrutiny Commission

**King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

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By Email

Dear Councillor Zuleta

You will have seen a letter from Guys and St Thomas's Foundation Trust (GSTT) that has outlined the current financial outlook for the NHS and in particular for the South East London sector. As the letter details, we are adopting a joint approach to reduce costs and increase efficiencies across both Trusts. As King's Health Partners (KHP), we are working to ensure that the commissioning of specialist services maintains the high levels of service quality that Lambeth and Southwark residents have come to expect from their local hospitals.

The GSTT bid on behalf of KHP to run the provider arm of the local PCTs is an important part of our plans. If we are successful, we will be able to further reduce the number of hospital stays, improve outcomes and reduce overall system costs.

Like GSTT we are facing savings targets of around 10% in the coming financial year. The areas where we will be working most closely with GSTT on achieving these savings, will be within clinical and corporate functions where we will be identifying areas of duplication.

King's itself has a clear set of priorities and will be focusing on maintaining sustainability, service quality, medical productivity, average length of stay benchmarking and contracting efficiencies. These improved efficiencies should enable us to reduce our bed pool by some 60 beds without compromising our waiting lists.

We will continue to keep you and other stakeholders up to date with our progress, we will be working with our governing bodies and local LINKs where appropriate, and will be happy to attend future OSC meetings on request.

Yours sincerely



Tim Smart  
Chief Executive  
King's College Hospital NHS FT

Copies:

Michael Parker, Chair – King's College Hospital NHS FT

Ron Kerr, CEO – Guy's and St Thomas' NHS FT  
Patricia Moberley, Chair – Guy's and St Thomas' NHS FT

Susanna White, CEO – NHS Southwark  
Mee Ling Ng, Chair – NHS Southwark  
Barry Silverman, Chair – Southwark LINKs  
Edwina Morris, Interim Director for Adult Services – Southwark  
Cllr David Noakes, Exec Member for Health & Adult Care – Southwark Council

Sarah Cottingham & Susanna Masters, COO – LSL Alliance

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP  
Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP