

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>Scrutiny &amp; Overview Committee</b>	
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	<b>8 July 2024</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Request to the Secretary of State for Health &amp; Social Care to call-in the decision of NHS England on the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children in south London and much of south east England</b>	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR</b>	Annette McPartland – Corporate Director for Adult Social Care & Health	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Jack Bedeman – Public Health Consultant  Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer – Scrutiny	
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor	
<b>AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:</b>	This item is scheduled annually for the first meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee in the new municipal year.	
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>  <i>(* See guidance)</i>	<b>No</b>	
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	All	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to submit a request to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care to call-in the decision by NHS England on the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children in south London and much of south east England.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee is asked to: -
1. Agree to make a request to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to call in the decision NHS England on the reconfiguration of the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children in South London and much of South East England.
  2. Delegate authority to Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee to

sign-off the completed referral form, once drafted by officers, for submission to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

**3. REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TO CALL-IN THE DECISION OF NHS ENGLAND ON THE FUTURE LOCATION OF VERY SPECIALIST CANCER TREATMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN SOUTH LONDON AND MUCH OF SOUTH EAST ENGLAND**

- 3.1. During 2023 NHS England has been consulting on the future location of its very specialist cancer treatment services for children in south London and much of south east England. The principal treatment centre for these services is currently at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, with intensive care and cancer surgery provided at St George's Hospital in Tooting.
- 3.2. NHS England has been consulting upon the follow two options for the relocation of these services.
1. to move the principal treatment centre to St George's Hospital alongside existing services.
  2. to relocate the principal treatment centre and most of the services provided at St George's Hospital to the Evelina Children's Hospital in central London.
- 3.3. Under both options radiotherapy services would be provided at University College Hospital in central London.
- 3.4. In line with the statutory consultation process for substantial changes to NHS service provision, NHS England has engaged in consultation with local authority health scrutiny through a sub-committee of the South West London & Surrey Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). The Croydon representatives on this sub-committee were the Chair of the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee, Councillor Eunice O'Dame and the Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, Councillor Richard Chatterjee. The Croydon members of the sub-committee were able to feed into the consultation, highlighting the local preference for option 1, to move the principal treatment centre to St George's Hospital, mainly on the grounds of location and the increased time and cost of travel for families if the Evelina Children's Hospital was chosen as the preferred option.
- 3.5. The JHOSC sub-committee submitted its final response on the consultation to NHS England at its meeting on 7 March 2024. A copy of the response can be found an Appendix 1.
- 3.6. On 14 March 2024, NHS England announced its decision to adopt the proposal to relocate the principal treatment centre and transfer most services

currently provided at St George's to the Evelina Children's Hospital. The decision is not likely to be fully implemented until 2026. The minutes of the NHS England meeting where the decision was taken on the reconfiguration of the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children in south London and much of south east England can be found [here](#). The decision making business case outlining the reasons for the decision can be found [here](#).

- 3.7. Following the decision, the Executive Mayor, Jason Perry, along with the Leaders of Kingston Council, Merton Council, Richmond Council, Sutton Council, Surrey County Council and Wandsworth Council wrote to Dr Chris Streater, Regional Medical Director and CCIO for NHS England on 26 April 2024 outlining their continued concerns about the impact of the decision to relocate services to the Evelina Children's Hospital rather than St George's Hospital, with it considered not to be in the best interest of the health service in the region. The letter (see Appendix 2) also outlined that the possibility of submitting requests to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care to call-in the decision for review, were being explored. A response to the joint Leader's letter was provided by Dr Chris Streater on 9 May 2024 (see Appendix 3).
- 3.8. In normal circumstances, all health related matters are delegated to the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee. However, in order to ensure that there is timely consideration of decision on whether to submit a request to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care to call-in the decision, it has been agreed that the decision will be made by the parent committee, namely the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.
- 3.9. The members of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee are asked to review the information provided and asked to decide whether they wish to proceed with submitting a request to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care to call in the NHS England decision on the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children in south London and much of south east England.

#### **4. APPENDICES**

- 4.1. Appendix 1: Final Report Of The South West London And Surrey Joint Health Overview And Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- 4.2. Appendix 2: Joint Leaders Letter – 26 April 2024
- 4.3. Appendix 3: Response from Dr Chris Streater, Regional Medical Director and Joint SRO, 9 May 2024

#### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

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