



Leader's Office
The Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU
Email leader@wandsworth.gov.uk
Friday 26th April 2024

Dr Chris Streater

Interim Regional Medical Director and CCIO, NHS England

By email chris.streater@nhs.net

Dear Dr Streater,

This letter serves to notify that we are exploring the option of using our call-in powers to refer the decision to locate the South London and South East regions paediatric cancer PTC at the Evelina to the Secretary of State for Health. As you know, we are disappointed by your decision, and we know that the communities we represent feel the same way.

We must now consider what the best way forwards is for our communities. We believe that our engagement with the various stages of the consultation leading to your decision demonstrates our engagement to explore local resolution. If there are any areas for further discussion between NHS England and our authorities, we are of course very willing to engage in dialogue with you. Equally, if as we believe the substantive decision cannot be overturned by NHS England, we understand that a referral, if this is decided upon by our individual authorities, may be the only way forward for a review.

Families have told us that they would be “completely devastated if this change goes ahead,” due to the additional stress of driving into Central London – an issue which we do not believe was adequately reflected in your decision-making business case or the decision-making meeting.

Further, St George's Hospital has 25 years of experience delivering cancer care to children, including complex surgery, and this experience cannot be replicated at the Evelina. We struggle to see how the difficulties and complexity associated with trying to replicate the existing services and experience at St George's, including potentially asking staff to travel between the hospitals, represents better value for patient care and safety or improves the conditions and wellbeing of staff.

We are also concerned that the Evelina is a more expensive option and are unsure why value for money is not included in the criteria for the decision which has been made.

It would be helpful therefore if you could provide the evidence base outside of the decision-making business case which addresses these concerns. We would like to take this evidence base into consideration whilst we review the option of referring to the Secretary of State. As ever, we remain committed to an open working relationship with NHS England.

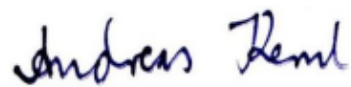
Your sincerely,



Councillor Simon Hogg
Leader of Wandsworth Council



Mayor Jason Perry
Croydon Council



Councillor Andreas Kirsch
Leader of Kingston Council



Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader of Merton Council



Councillor Gareth Roberts
Leader of Richmond Council



Councillor Tim Oliver
Leader of Surrey Council



Councillor Ruth Dombey
Leader of Sutton Council