

Governing Body meeting

Questions received from the public with responses from the CCG

MEETING DATE: 18 March 2021

This set of questions was received prior to the meeting taking place, with the response document then published on the CCG's website and also emailed to those who submitted the questions. Where a question was raised on behalf of a group the person's name is listed below; where the person did so as an individual then their name has not been published.

Question 1

**Ann Garrett,
Co-Chair of
Save Our
Local
Hospitals and
Services –
Bromley,
Bexley and
Greenwich**

I am very concerned about the lack of test and trace centres in Bromley . £22 billion of public money was allocated to the NHS Test and Trace programme, and this is now increased to £37 billion. How much of the £22 billion was allocated to each of the SE London boroughs , and are there any plans to increase centres in Bromley, such as doctors surgeries which are easier to access, than just the 3 present large centres ?

Whilst understanding the need to suspend the borough based board meetings due to the demands of the Covid situation , are there any plans to re-instate these in the near future to address urgent specific local issues?

Response

NHS Track and Trace is a national service and, as such, the CCG is unable to comment about its funding. The service has three PCR testing sites in Bromley at St Paul's Cray, Crystal Palace Park and Norman Park for people with symptoms. These sites are managed centrally and not by the local authority or CCG. These are separate from GP surgeries to avoid the need for people with symptoms having to go to GP surgeries. Members of the public with symptoms also have the option to order home testing kits if they are unable to attend a site or do not have transport. These are available online at

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and also by calling 119. For people who do not have symptoms, Bromley Council has set up two rapid testing sites at Bromley Civic Centre and at Kentwood Centre in Penge and these have sufficient capacity. There is further information on the Bromley Council website at https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200154/coronavirus_covid%E2%80%9119/1445/coronavirus_covid-19_nhs_test_and_trace.

The CCG made the decision to stand down the majority of its governance meetings to enable staff time to be released to directly support the delivery of services and this included the Borough Based Boards, which meet every other month in public. The decision has been made that governance meetings will start meeting again as normal from 1 April and Borough Based Boards will meet in May. The Bromley Borough Based Board is 13 May, 1.30 – 3.30pm.

Question 2

Greenwich
resident

May I refer you to Q 16 [of January GB questions] from a Greenwich resident which was me. The CCG response to my question 1 regarding bed occupancy at QEH said a detailed response would be provided after the Board meeting. It doesn't seem to have been done. Could you refer this to the person responsible please so that there might be a response before the meeting next week?

Original question is:

1) **Bed Occupancy and ED attendance rates QEH Woolwich.** Shortly before the pandemic in late 2019 the CEO of L&G NHS Trust Ben Travis stated that 'winter pressures' on beds and A&E were no longer limited to the winter months but had also triggered alerts as early as July 2019. At Greenwich Overview & Scrutiny he agreed that the bed numbers at the QE were inadequate given attendances at A&E were running at 170 per cent of capacity. Can the Board provide details of bed occupancy rates and ED attendances since March 2020. In addition what were the number of diversions of ambulances from the QEH and transfers from A&E to other hospitals.

Response

We are sorry we did not provide you with a response after the January meeting.

During the pandemic response QEH had a prolonged time of enhanced support from the LAS in the form of periodic and geographically specific diverts due to an Oxygen issue. This support ran from the 27th December 2020 to the 22nd January 2021. This was reviewed twice daily and had the full support from all of the acute providers in South East London as well as the London Ambulance Service.

The table below shows the number of A&E Attendances and Occupancy Rates for Queen Elizabeth Hospital from March 2020 to February 2021.

Month	A&E Attendances	Occupancy Rate
Mar-20	10503	93.97%
Apr-20	7223	82.23%
May-20	9515	80.47%
Jun-20	10513	80.29%
Jul-20	11437	78.07%
Aug-20	11866	92.22%
Sep-20	12336	93.46%
Oct-20	11553	94.06%
Nov-20	11176	94.28%
Dec-20	11055	95.34%
Jan-21	9283	96.91%
Feb-21	9032	92.26%

Question 3

**Michael
Diamond**

NHS Trust properties are fundamentally public or community assets. The Lee Health Centre is currently subject to speculative discussion about its future but patient participation groups for the practices at the Centre have not been involved. Can you tell me if this is normal practice and if you think that this should change?

<p>Secretary, Friends of Nightingale Surgery (Patient Participation Group)</p>	
<p>Response</p>	<p>Since 1 April 2015, it is a contractual requirement for practices to establish PPGs to listen, discuss and act upon their experiences and involve them in plans to improve and develop services, as appropriate. The CCG is at the very early stage of discussions with GP practices in the area and Lewisham Alliance (the Primary Care Network - PCN) and should any changes in the use of Lee Health Centre be proposed, practices will share and discuss these with their PPGs at the earliest opportunity.</p>
<p>Question 4</p> <p>Susan Sidgwick, Lambeth Keep Our NHS Public</p>	<p>The Public Health team in Lambeth are to be congratulated on the launch of their new pilot “Local 0” scheme to bring all Covid-19 contact tracing in-house.</p> <p>Does the SEL CCG support the extension of the pilot to all SE London boroughs? Does it expect this to happen? Would extra funding be necessary to do this work properly?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Contact tracing is an important tool in helping contain the spread of coronavirus, alongside testing, self-isolation support, vaccination and core infection control measures,. The Local-O scheme in Lambeth extends the role of local authority public health teams in the contact tracing process and we believe this brings a range of benefits in that we can bring local intelligence and knowledge to the contact tracing process at the earliest possible opportunity and we can then offer enhanced support to individuals, using the most common local languages and with access to the support that is available in the borough to help people and their households to self-isolate, where needed.</p>

All Local Authority Public Health Teams are currently reviewing their Outbreak Control Plans in the light of the latest understanding of the need to address the ongoing response to the pandemic and this will include local test and trace arrangements in partnership with the national Test and Trace system. SEL DPHs are keen to learn from schemes such as that in Lambeth and how this might inform other borough arrangements - this learning will be actively shared across boroughs. Enhanced contact tracing does require additional resources to train and employ local teams and local authorities will need to be consider this against other outbreak control measures, particularly addressing any medium to longer term requirements, beyond the period of additional earmarked resources associated with the Covid-19 response.