

Governing Body meeting

Questions received from the public with responses from the CCG

MEETING DATE: 20 May 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. It has been updated since it was first published to include questions received in the meeting. 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

**Wendy Horler,
Lambeth Keep
Our NHS Public**

You set a deadline for questions of 10am on Monday 17th May. At this point in time there are no minutes of the previous meeting or an agenda for the upcoming meeting readily available to the public. Are your Engagement Assurance Committee aware of this?

Back in April 2020 the SELCCG was established it was stated "we will keep local people at the heart of our decision-making". I have to say that as a member of the public and as a patient I feel more and more excluded from actions that are being taken about the health service in South East London, upon which I depend.

The NHS Long term Plan (2019) stated at paragraph 1.8 that the new systems should be locally owned: Build on existing engagement with local communities to ensure they can meaningfully input into the development of local plans. It referred to statutory guidance in place for these plans to be implemented

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/participation/involvementguidance/>

Perhaps I'm missing something. How far have the Engagement Assurance Committee got with their work? Could you outline for me please any way in which I could effectively share at any level, in the decisions that are being made?

Response

Due to an unforeseen error, there was a delay in publishing the agenda and papers on the CCG's website for the meeting being held on Thursday, 20 May for which please accept our apologies. This was addressed as soon as known and the deadline for questions being submitted was extended to 5pm on Tuesday, 18 May. The papers can be found on the CCG website:

[May 2021 Governing Body Meeting - South East London CCG \(selondonccg.nhs.uk\)](https://selondonccg.nhs.uk)

The CCG's engagement assurance committee is now in place and meets regularly, with updates on its work provided to the Governing Body. As is the case across the NHS, the CCG is playing its role in combating the current Covid-19 pandemic; it is working with its partners to ensure that the public is aware of how people can keep themselves safe, especially around the need for social distancing, testing and vaccination. This has been the focus of its communications and engagement work since the pandemic was declared a national major incident in March 2020.

Question 2

**Gay Lee,
Lambeth Keep
Our NHS Public**

I would be very grateful if members of the SELCCG would comment at the meeting on each of the quotes in the attached South London Press article from:

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP,
Dr Brian Fisher,
Johnbosco Nwogbo
and Operose Health

https://londonnewsonline.co.uk/campaigners-unite-against-stealth-privatisation-as-south-london-gps-are-sold-off-to-healthcare-giant/#google_vignette

I am also writing to ask whether you are going to post the meeting agenda on the SELCCG website. This is normally done a week before the meeting and hopefully the fact that it is not there is an oversight this month.

Response	<p>The CCG has published a statement on its website addressing the matter of AT Medics – this can be found here: Reduced agenda/internal: March 2021 PCCC Meeting - South East London CCG (selondonccg.nhs.uk)</p> <p>Due to an unforeseen error, there was a delay in publishing the agenda and papers on the CCG’s website for the meeting being held on Thursday, 20 May for which please accept our apologies. This was addressed as soon as known and the deadline for questions being submitted was extended to 5pm on Tuesday, 18 May. The papers can be found on the CCG website:</p> <p>May 2021 Governing Body Meeting - South East London CCG (selondonccg.nhs.uk)</p>
Question 3 Marie-Louise Irvine, Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign	<p>I am writing to ask if the CCG is aware that the agenda and papers for the 20th May meeting were not on the website as of Friday 14 May. The deadline for questions, which we are told must relate to the agenda, is Monday 17 May at 10 am. Assuming the agenda goes up first thing Monday morning that still does not give enough time for members of the public to formulate and submit questions.</p> <p>This undermines the public's right to transparency and accountability. I don't think this is a good start to the CCG's relationship with the public and I hope it is an error and not an indication of how things will happen in the future.</p> <p>Will the CCG now:</p> <p>a. publish the agenda and papers for 20th May meeting b. extend the deadline for public questions c. assure us this will not happen again and that agenda and papers will be put on the website at least a week before the meeting.</p>
Response	<p>Due to an unforeseen error, there was a delay in publishing the agenda and papers on the CCG’s website for the meeting being held on Thursday, 20 May for which please accept our apologies. This was addressed as soon as known and the deadline for questions being submitted was extended to 5pm on Tuesday, 18 May. The papers can be found on the CCG website:</p> <p>May 2021 Governing Body Meeting - South East London CCG (selondonccg.nhs.uk)</p>

The CCG is committed to working with the public in an open and transparent manner at all times and apologises for the error that led to the Governing Body papers not being published on time.

Question 4

**Southwark
resident**

Now that it has been clinically established that survivors of Covid-19 experience/suffer complications, what measures are in place to monitor and support these survivors, especially, those with pre-existing medical conditions and vulnerable?

Response

How long it takes to recover from COVID-19 will vary, but most people will make a full recovery within 12 weeks after the onset of symptoms. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) defines post-COVID syndrome as signs and symptoms that develop during or following an infection consistent with COVID-19 which continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.

A number of services are available in south east London for these patients:

1. Your Covid Recovery on-line platform <https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/>
2. Post Covid Syndrome Assessment Clinics have been put in place at some acute sites across south east London, for example the one at the Princess Royal University Hospital started on 28 April
3. Additional resources and funding have been made available to support primary care pathway development and dedicated training and support for GPs across south east London. Although resources have been identified, this is still work in progress

Question 5

**Olivia
O'Sullivan,**

The Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign has been very concerned about the impact of a proposed reduction of £250,000 in the expected funding from London Borough of Lewisham for CAMHS for 2021-2022. Our campaign argued against such a cut while recognising that the Council has suffered large government budget cuts.

Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign

We were particularly concerned about this reduction in the context of the now very well documented impact that the Covid 19 pandemic, lockdowns and non-school attendance has had on our children and young people’s mental health.

It has been announced that this amount has now been placed in a contingency fund which will be made available to meet any identified mental health needs arising. We understand that a protocol is being developed which will detail the trigger points to initiate the use of this fund.

During our campaign, we have been advised that there has been a very welcome increase of 36% in CCG funding for Lewisham CAMHS over the last 3 years to develop services as detailed in the CAMHS Transformation Plan (October 2019).

We understand that there is another anticipated increase in CCG funding for CAMHS in 2021-2022. In these extraordinary circumstances where an uplift of funding is required, we ask:

a) What the aggregate total of CCG and Council funding for Lewisham CAMHS for the years 2018-2019 to 2021-2022 (4 years)

b) What additional provision will be able to made from the CCG and/or central government to respond to what is anticipated to be a very significant rise in demand for mental health services and to meet the stated ambition that every London child reaches a good level of cognitive, social and emotional development with effective child and adolescent mental health services available to all young people whenever they need them.

Response

a. The aggregate total of CCG and Council funding for Lewisham CAMHS for the years 2018-2019 to 2021-2022 is as follows:

CAMHS	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
funding source	£	£	£	£

CCG	4,447,500	5,027,548	6,059,683	*6,509,936
Council	1,136,000	1,140,000	1,179,382	1,040,053
Totals	5,583,500	6,167,548	7,239,065	7,549,989

*The above table excludes the Lewisham share of national transformation funding for 2021/22 as set out below, for which plans are being developed.

b. Additional provision made to meet increased demand for CAMHS

Investment in CAMHS is a key priority for the South East London Integrated Care System. We anticipate that investment into CAMHS will be made in 2021/22 firstly through our mental health investment standard. Furthermore, additional funding for children and young people’s mental health services has been made available for 2021/22 through both national NHS transformation funding and as part of the NHS Spending Review settlement for mental health.

From national transformation money and spending review allocations, across South East London, we have received in total £4.8 million for CAMHS and £1.4 million has been made available to develop services for mental health services for people aged between 18 to 25 years; in addition, we will be receiving an additional £500,000 specifically to develop services for children with eating disorders. This funding is for 2021/22 and we anticipate a proportion of this will be used specifically for services in Lewisham.

Question 6

**Greenwich
resident**

A letter to the Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock MP, dated 22 February 2021, signed by leaders of nine national health campaigns, states that SELCCG led the preparation of a due diligence report to thirteen other CCGs that enabled control of AT Medics Limited’s GP surgeries across London to pass to the, ‘Centene’ Corporation. Please will SELCCG answer these three questions:

What business was it of the SELCCG to assist in the privatisation of GP services in London?

Were SELCCG paid for their work in preparing the due diligence report?

In what way does the transfer of the surgeries to a US Corporation benefit the people who live in the area SECCG serves?

	<p>The link to the letter is:</p> <p>https://allysonpollock.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Letter_SoS_HSC_Centene_22Feb2021.pdf</p>
Response	<p>The CCG published a statement on our website addressing the matter of AT Medics – this can be found here: Reduced agenda/internal: March 2021 PCCC Meeting - South East London CCG (selondonccg.nhs.uk)</p> <p>In relation to the first and second part of the question - the CCG's role in preparation of the due diligence was to request its production on behalf of the CCGs considering the same matter; and to include it in a consistent format. The CCG received no payment for this coordinating task.</p>

The next set of questions was submitted and answered during the Governing Body meeting. 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 7 Kelvin Wheelan Lewisham Pensioners Forum	<p>Can you inform me on what the CCG is going to do to support Older Adults, so that they feel they are a part of the community. The reason I ask is that there is no information on support for them.</p>
Response	<p>It should be noted that the approach would vary across boroughs within the CCG, given our different populations and our joint working with each local authority, but each team is working to a common aim.</p>

For example, Bromley has the largest and oldest population of the London boroughs, and so support for older adults is very important and a range of services is provided, including integrated care networks – a multidisciplinary approach where individuals identified by a GP are visited by a community matron and then are the subject of a conversation with social care, community services, a hospital geriatrician and the third sector to identify a care plan that meets their needs. A tailored engagement and communication strategy helped to ensure that older adults were aware of the services available and had information of how to access support.

A second example is Lewisham, where ‘community connections’ is a social prescribing collaboration to support older adults in the borough. The local frailty pathway was also being reviewed by a clinical lead to ensure it provided all the support necessary. The CCG is working with Lewisham council to maintain regular contact with the pensioner’s forum and there were efforts to address isolation for older people and carers by working with local partners and voluntary organisations on support, such as befriending schemes.

Question 8

**Tim Bradley,
Wellbeing Map**

Your figures (at Lewisham BBB) show 15-fold increase in planned social prescribing referrals across SE London by 2024. How will Voluntary, Community, Faith Groups be resourced to meet this?

Response

The CCG recognises the vital role of voluntary, community and faith groups – which is reflected in all six boroughs, where local care partnerships are bringing together NHS commissioners, acute trusts and mental health and community trusts, with local councils, voluntary and community organisations to build strong connections between these groups to improve services that meet the needs of local people. The CCG invests in out of hospital community services, including the voluntary sector and smaller charities, as well as larger organisations such as Mind and Age UK, on prevention initiatives.

<p>Question 9</p> <p>Gay Lee, Lambeth Keep NHS Public</p>	<p>Can we ask that the SEL CCG sets up immediate engagement on the new data sharing programme, to work on the recommendations of the Citizens Summit which have not been fully implemented, and informs patients of their rights to opt out by June 30th?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>The CCG is working proactively across south east London on data sharing. A clear expectation has been expressed by citizens, at engagement events, that de-identified data should be shared to support the improvement and planning of services. Further information can be found on the CCG's website.</p>
<p>Question 10</p> <p>Ann Garrett, Save Our Local Hospitals and Services - Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich</p>	<p>How will the disestablishment of the CCG system impact on the delivery of services?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>The disestablishment of CCGs is part of proposals put forward to Parliament by the government which have not yet been approved. If approved, the disestablishment of the CCG will not directly impact on the delivery of services. South East London will need to continue to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the needs of the population, and allocate resources to best meet those needs, and be held to account for this process.</p>
<p>Question 11</p> <p>Gay Lee, Lambeth Keep NHS Public</p>	<p>We heard this morning on the BBC that 'the national (test and trace) scheme would effectively end on the 17th May'. Is this true? and if so what are the implications of this for the Local 0 and other local authority PH tracing, isolation and support schemes in SEL?</p>

Response

We have been unable to confirm this information on the BBC's website. If we are made aware of changes in this respect we can update in writing as we are notified.