

To: All health OSCs and/or lead scrutiny officers in London
All health OSCs and/or lead scrutiny officers in Authorities surrounding London
Chief Executives of all Local Authorities in London and surrounding areas

Copy: Chief Executive, Greater London Authority
Mr Boris Johnson, Mayor of London
Mr Alex Bax, Senior Adviser, Mayor's Office
Chief Executive, London Councils
PCT CEs in London and surrounding SHA areas
CEs in SHAs surrounding London
Members of the London Commissioning Group
NHS London Reconfiguration Team

7 October, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Proposed public consultation on acute stroke and major trauma services in London

Please ensure this is passed to your health scrutiny chairman and/or lead scrutiny officer

I enclose a copy of a letter to PCT Chief Executives in London and surrounding areas from the London Commissioning Group (LCG). This sets out a provisional framework for a formal consultation on acute stroke and major trauma services in London. I also enclose a copy of the programme brief.

The LCG is a stakeholder group that brings together representatives from London PCTs, NHS London (the Strategic Health Authority for London) and representatives from unions, the mayor's office, clinicians, patients and the public, to lead the implementation of Healthcare for London. My purpose in writing is to invite relevant local authorities to establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and respond to the proposed consultation. This is in line with Directions from the Secretary of State issued in July 2003.

Our current view is that whilst many PCTs in England will wish to be a consultee and will respond to the consultation, a few outside London may wish to be part of the Joint Committee of PCTs.

Summary

The framework for the proposed consultation builds on *Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital*. For more details please see the attached programme brief. The key points are:

- PCTs for whom the implementation of the models proposed for stroke and major trauma might amount to a substantial variation or development for part or all of their population establish a Joint Committee in October 2008.
- A formal 12-week public consultation period will take place from 5 January through to 29 March 2009.

Next steps

I would like to invite local authorities to liaise with their PCT about involvement in a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC). Healthcare for London has discussed these proposals with Cllr Mary O'Connor (Chairman of the JOSC established during *Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital*) and Cllr Barrie Taylor (Vice-Chairman of the JOSC established during *Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital*) who have also commented upon the brief.

Cllr O'Connor has proposed that discussion regarding the establishment of a new JOSC for the stroke and major trauma consultation take place at the final meeting of the current JOSC (established to scrutinise *Consulting the Capital*) which takes place in public on 24 October 2008. OSCs that are not members of the current JOSC are welcome to attend the meeting. It is expected that the London Scrutiny Network will organise an Officer Support Group for the new JOSC. In the meantime, can you please express your interest by responding to Guy Fiegehen (Head of Scrutiny & Members' Services, London Borough of Hillingdon) so that your details can be forwarded to the new Officer Support Group. Guy can be contacted on gfiegehen@hillingsdon.gov.uk or 01895 277 733.

Sharing this information with your OSCs

I have asked the Officer Support Group of the current JOSC to forward this to the Members and Scrutiny officers in participating authorities; I would be grateful if all Chief Executives could likewise forward this letter onto their respective OSC chairmen

Please see Attachment A for information on issues for Local Authorities to consider.

If you need further clarification on any of the issues set out in this letter, please contact Claire Lynch, Consultation Delivery Manager on claire.lynch@london.nhs.uk or 020 7932 3801.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Easterling".

Tom Easterling on behalf of the London Commissioning Group

Encs:

Copy of letter to PCT Chief Executives in London and surrounding areas
Programme brief for improving stroke and major trauma services in London

Attachment A

Issues for Local Authorities in London

We anticipate that all PCT boards in London will agree to the establishment of a Joint Committee of PCTs at their board meetings in Autumn 2008. Were that to be the case, there would be a statutory requirement on London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London to form a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC). The composition of that committee, arrangements for chairing the JOSC and supporting it, will be matters that borough and City of London scrutiny functions will want to consider.

From a PCT perspective, the earlier that there is clarity about councillors and officers with authority to liaise with on scrutiny even if only on a “shadow” or “designate” basis, the better.

While the statutory responsibility for scrutiny on the consultation sits with London boroughs, the Common Council of the City of London and, where relevant, social services authorities outside London, the JOSC may also want to consider the scope for any liaison with the London Assembly.

Issues for Social Services Authorities outside London

We have asked PCTs in SHAs adjoining London to ask themselves: “Could the implementation of the models of care and delivery proposed for acute stroke and major trauma services amount to a substantial variation or development for all or part of the population served by my PCT?”

PCTs and OSCs outside London may come to the view that the proposals for **stroke services, or major trauma services, or both stroke and major trauma services** if implemented, amount to a substantial variation or development for all or part of their population.

In any of these events, PCTs would need to consider agreeing to be part of a Joint Committee for the consultation and their corresponding OSC would be statutorily required to be party to a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.