

On 01 April 2020 at 17:48 "ALLIN-KHAN, Rosena" wrote:

To whom it may concern,

Please find my submission to the consultation below.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best,

Rosena

Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP

Labour MP for Tooting

As with all major reorganisations of health services, the changes can profoundly affect local people and many residents are concerned about how they will access emergency care in the future. Furthermore, such significant changes affect demand in other hospitals, including our local hospital at St. George's.

As an A&E doctor at St George's, and as the local Member of Parliament, staff and residents have told me that they are concerned about the knock on impact on the Emergency Department at St George's. A loss of acute services at St Helier will push more people to use St George's Hospital – if a parent needs to rush their child to A&E because they are experiencing difficulties breathing, they will attend their nearest A&E – and for many more people in South London, this will be St George's.

I am also concerned about the knock on impact this will have on the workload of St George's, especially as it has only just been taken out of special measures.

Particular concerns are:

- Education for local people on when to use Urgent Care centres and when to go to A&E;
- Support – including extra funding - for St. George's to mitigate extra pressures on A&E when the new hospital is built;
- Improved transport links for the Merton, Sutton & Epsom area to allow people to use public transport to get to hospital – particularly for outpatients appointments and visiting;
- The new services, hospitals and transport are designed to minimise greenhouse emissions.

The London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, has developed a "Six tests" framework to "Champion and Challenge the NHS, to advocate for Londoners and to actively engage with consultations."

The new scheme should also pass the six tests, which are:

- Not to widen health inequalities and to reduce these where possible;
- To avoid reduction in hospital beds across the sector (and the current coronavirus pandemic highlights this need);

- To ensure there is sufficient funding for all aspects of the scheme, including non-NHS aspects such as improved transport;
- Any changes need to consider the full impact on local authority social care;
- Changes should have widespread clinical support (and we would particularly recommend that St. George's clinical teams should be fully involved, because of the possible effects on their A&E);
- There should be full patient & public engagement. On this point, part of the consultation will overlap with the pandemic and I suggest the deadline is extended for two weeks; and the project team actively seek submissions from local GPs and hospitals as these groups may have been too busy to meet the deadline.

Let's ensure that there is full scrutiny of the preferred development so the most vulnerable in our communities do not struggle to access quality healthcare as an unforeseen result.