



Cllr Aidan Mundy
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

Delivered by email from aidan.mundy@merton.gov.uk

Ms Sarah Blow
NHS South West London Clinical Commissioning Group
3rd Floor
120 The Broadway
London
SW19 1RH

Dear Ms Blow,

RE: Response to Healthcare Together 2020-2030 consultation on behalf of Pollards Hill ward residents

I'm writing to you as Accountable Officer for NHS South West London STP in my capacity as a Merton Councillor representing Pollards Hill ward, and in response to the Improving Healthcare Together 2020-2030 consultation.

In addition to an elected representative I'm also an NHS employee, and know first-hand the energy, passion and care put into improving patient care. Despite this, public expectations of our health service continue to rise, life expectancy has generally been increasing, and conditions that were once fatal are now manageable through world leading care. This is the challenging reality NHS commissioners and providers operate.

While I welcome £500 million investment in South West London's health economy, residents in Pollards Hill have asked their Councillors and Member of Parliament to make representations on their behalf in opposition to your preferred option. I can appreciate the preferred option was agreed after careful consideration of the St Heliers and Epsom hospitals University hospitals NHS Trust's operational, clinical and financial capacity. Residents have expressed concerns that this preferred option is in conflict with one of the five tests for service change set out in national commissioning requirements, specifically: the consistency with current and prospective need for patient choice. I would urge you to take the opportunity in your decision-making business case to provide assurance for my residents'.

Patient choice is protected by the NHS constitution. As outlined in the consultation document and other materials the centralisation of emergency services reduces the capacity in non-emergency capable sites to conduct surgery that would otherwise be classes as high clinical risk. The preferred option would mean that hospital births would no longer be available at

both Epsom and St Helier hospitals in addition to five other services. Practically, this would mean those needing more complex treatment would have to travel further to attend surgical procedures that were until recently available local to them. Patients who do decide to travel would have increased travel costs, either to themselves or patient transport services, and may also contribute to an increased NHS carbon footprint due to their extended journeys.

Furthermore, by reducing patient choice in Merton demand will increase on services at St George's and Croydon University Hospital. Patients already under the long-term care of both of these trusts for appointments will likely experience further delays in providing the care as more residents try to access these services.

We all want to see local NHS services adapt to increased expectations and provide sustainable and lifesaving care. In your final decision-making business case, I hope you revisit your decision and address the concerns of residents in Pollards Hill and the borough of Merton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Mundy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr Aidan Mundy
Labour & Co-operative Party Councillor, Pollards Hill Ward