

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

23 October 2024

Urgent Decision Taken under Procedure Rule 30 - Call in of decision on the reconfiguration of the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services

Report by the Monitoring Officer

Purpose of Report

To report a matter of urgency dealt with in accordance with Procedure Rule 30.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Benefits to the Community:

This report is required under the Council's Procedure Rules and is in accordance with the Council's commitment to open and transparent decision-making.

Key Points

- A. The decision set out below has been taken under the Council's urgency mechanisms contained in Procedure Rule 30 and is being reported for information in accordance with constitutional requirements.
- B. Details of the decision have been published on the Council's website.

Decision Taken

1. The Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, took the decision to authorise the Executive Director of Children's Services to make a request to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to call in the decision NHS England on the reconfiguration of the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children in South London and much of South East England.

Reason for Urgency/Background Information

2. The scrutiny of health matters in respect to reconfiguration of local health services rests with the Council's Health Overview Panel (HOP).
3. However, HOP is required to set up a Joint Committee with one or more authorities where an NHS body consults on a substantial development or variation to health services that extends beyond the area covered by the Committee.
4. Accordingly, the South West London and Surrey Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SWL & S JHOSC) with seven local authorities was

convened to consider the reconfiguration proposals and responded to the consultation on behalf of the constituent authorities.

5. The formal response, which can be found [here](#), to the consultation was of the clear and unanimous opinion that, should this specialist service be required to move, then St George's was the clear and preferable choice for numerous reasons set out in its report, including its strong working partnership with The Royal Marsden and its location which would provide easier access when compared to the Evelina for the vast majority of patients and their families.
6. On 14 March 2024, NHS England held a meeting to announce their decision to adopt the proposal to relocate the PTC treatment centre and transfer most services currently provided at St George's to the Evelina Children's Hospital. The decision is not likely to be fully implemented until 2026.
7. Whilst HOP is required to set up a Joint Committee to scrutinise the proposals, the decision regarding any matter of referral (now call-in) must be exercised by the Panel, taking into account whether or not the proposals are in the best interests of the residents of this Borough.
8. This matter was due to be considered by HOP at its meeting on 12 June 2024 but pre-election considerations meant that it was considered that it was not appropriate to hold this meeting and this authority is not alone in this regard.
9. Richmond Council had already published its agenda papers by the date of the announcement of the election and therefore has already made its decision on referral. It is understood that the other constituent authorities of the JHOSC were working towards a decision to request a call-in by the 15th July.

Background papers - None other than listed in the report

Author of report: Fiona Cotter, Democratic Services Team Leader, email: democratic.services@kingston.gov.uk

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