

To:

- Mike Derry, Healthwatch Richmond
- Dave Curtis, Healthwatch Merton
- Gordon Kay, Healthwatch Croydon

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

8 January 2024

Dear Mike, Dave and Gordon,

NHS England consultation on proposed changes to paediatric cancer services in south London and much of south east England

Thank you for your letter with the response from Healthwatch Richmond and Healthwatch Merton to the NHS England consultation on proposed changes to paediatric cancer services in south London and much of south east England. We acknowledge that Healthwatch Croydon have also stated their agreement with the content of the letter.

Within the response you outline a number of different issues regarding the proposals, and these will be taken into account as part of our consideration of all consultation responses.

We note your view about the consultation not meeting The Gunning Principles. We believe the consultation does and will comply with all four principles. Indeed, evidence of this is that hundreds of people have been able to send us full consultation responses for which we are very grateful.

We respectfully disagree with your assertion that the consultation is a *fait accompli*. It is established law that it is appropriate for public consultations to put forward a preferred option, along with the evidence to support this in the consultation materials. We are sure you will recognise that this is indeed common practice and does not impact on our ability to maintain an open mind as to the right final decision for the benefit of patients.

Throughout the consultation there has been huge strength of feeling shared about the proposed changes, particularly in relation to The Royal Marsden. Our focus is on ensuring that whichever location is chosen for the Principal Treatment Centre for south London and much of the south east of England, the future service can provide the very best care for children with cancer for decades to come.



We welcome all feedback on the proposals and are grateful that during consultation a wide range of patients, families and other groups have given them careful consideration and shared their feedback in response. All of this feedback will be independently reviewed and analysed along with all relevant data, evidence and other factors to inform our decision making business case.

Thank you once again for taking the time to respond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ailsa Willens', written over a horizontal line.

Ailsa Willens

Programme Director for the Children's Cancer Principal Treatment Centre
Programme, NHS England London Region