



June/July 2010

The Coalition - new programme for government

The new Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, has now made it clear that any plans for changes to services must be developed locally with GP commissioners, focus on improved patient outcomes, consider patient choice and be based on sound clinical evidence. The previous focus on Healthcare for London as an all-encompassing strategy has been replaced by a more locally-driven approach.

The work put into the last three years on Healthcare for London will be invaluable. The challenge now for London's NHS is to support all parts of its healthcare system to find new ways to achieving the goal of delivering the best possible healthcare for everyone in London.

NHS London, the six commissioning and strategic planning sectors, PCTs and providers all have an important role in supporting this new way of working and drawing on the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of the work from the last few years to implement the refocused health strategy.

More details are expected from the Department of Health soon and there is clearly a great deal to understand and implement locally over the next 18 months. PCTs in south west London are now working together to decide how we meet these new challenges going forward, whilst ensuring the best possible healthcare for local people.

[Find out more>>](#)

Making the NHS in Sutton and Merton more efficient

NHS Sutton and Merton is facing financial pressures due to an increase in the number of people being admitted into our acute hospitals in South West London. We know that many admissions could be avoided and more people could be treated and cared for outside of hospital.

Last year, the PCT finished 2009/10 with an overall deficit of £2.5 million. If we continue to spend at our current rate, we would have a £28 million debt at the end of 2010/11.

Last year, we did not manage acute hospitals as effectively as we should have done. This

- NHS Sutton and Merton is working with GPs to manage the demand for the hospital treatment, so that more people are treated effectively outside of hospital.
- When patients do go into hospital, we need to do more to manage their admission, treatment and discharge more effectively.
- To work with local hospitals to better manage and monitor our contracts for patient volumes and activity.

We have developed a value for money

year, to make sure we achieve financial balance we are taking strong action:

programme to ensure that services we commission get the best health outcomes for our patients and are cost effective.

Leading the local NHS

St Helier redevelopment: Plans to spend £219 million redeveloping St Helier Hospital have been given the go-ahead by the new coalition Government.

The proposals, which were agreed by the last Government in March, had been subject to a review by HM Treasury along with £34 billion of other projects from across the UK.

Whilst £11 billion of projects have been cancelled or put on hold, the St Helier scheme has been given the green light. The Treasury review was based on three tests: whether the project was affordable; if it delivered value for money; and, whether it remained a genuine priority for the Government. [Find out more >>](#)

Separation of provider services: In April, our Board accepted the recommendations of the assessment panel and agreed that The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust (RMH) should be selected as our preferred option for the separation of services provided by NHS Sutton and Merton Community Services. We chose RMH because theirs was the strongest proposal received and benefitted from RMH's excellent track record and commitment to delivering services of the highest quality.

Working with Community Partners

VegVan: Research with Hackbridge residents in last year showed a strong demand for better availability of fresh fruit and vegetables.

In March the "VegVan" project was launched. Funded by a range of partners including NHS Sutton and Merton, the project means that Hackbridge resident can now buy locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables outside their train station on the way home from work. [Find out more >>](#)

Fit Fans United: A 12 week pilot weight management programme delivered recently at Tooting and Mitcham Football Club. 15 local people enrolled, and were joined by the

Working with Clinicians

Integrated Care Organisations (ICOs): The NHS traditionally focusses more on treating people when they are unwell. Our aim is to move services from acute to local settings, and place a greater emphasis on keeping people healthy. However, this transformation will be challenging. We need to change how we work, with a greater emphasis on commissioning services for the whole person, not just for episodes of illness.

To help make this happen, we are putting GPs and practice nurses at the heart of commissioning by setting up "Integrated Care Organisations" (ICOs). The ICOs will use their knowledge of patients' needs to manage the whole patient journey.

Three pilot ICOs have been set up for 2010/11.

Engaging with Public and Patients

"ill in Sutton": Many young people aged between 17 and 24 are unsure which NHS service to use. They often go to A&E for conditions which are not medical emergencies - when it would be easier and more convenient for them to see a local GP or pharmacist.

To help people in the target group make the right choices, a new website - www.illinsutton.nhs.uk - was launched, along with a poster campaign in community venues, and a direct mail campaign with patients aged between 17 and 34 years in the St Helier area. Over two weekends in April, local GPs and health professionals manned a "health

club's Chairman and Director of Football. Weekly sessions included a weigh in, 1 to 1 healthy lifestyle talks and 30 minutes circuit training delivered by a personal trainer. The total weight loss for the group was 73lbs, with a reduction in waist circumference of 29".

The Club will be running a second programme in the near future, using their gym staff, supported by our Health Improvement Co-ordinator.

bus" on Sutton High Street, meeting and giving health advice to over 800 local people.

The Summary Care Record (SCR)

A SCR contains a patient's key health information that will be available to anyone treating them in the NHS across England.

Authorised healthcare staff directly involved in the patient's care will be able to view the SCR over the next few years. Access will be controlled via an NHS Smartcard with a chip and passcode. The amount of data available to health-care staff will depend on their job; only the information relevant to the member of staff will be shown.

NHS Sutton and Merton is undertaking a Public Information Programme (PIP) to inform local people about the SCR, what it means to them and the choices they have. The PIP will precede the uploading of clinical data, to allow patients to express their preferences - they can choose not to have a SCR. [For more information >>](#)

Choices for Patients

New dental surgeries: A new dental surgery, *Simply Bright*, has opened on Fairgreen Parade Mitcham (Merton). A second surgery is being planned for North Wallington (Sutton). The surgeries will improve access to dentistry in key areas.

The Hospice at Home: End of life care is a strategic priority for NHS Sutton and Merton. Hospice at Home is a pilot service commissioned from St Raphael's Hospice, that supports residents in both Sutton and Merton. The service is managed by a senior nurse with experience in palliative care who is supported by a team of healthcare assistants. The team works closely with St Raphael's other services, NHS Sutton and Merton Community Services and the Marie Curie nursing service. The service is for non cancer and cancer patients .

The pilot ends in March 2011 and a full evaluation of the service is underway.

You said... We did...

Check it out: Last year, we consulted with local people to find out their views of our family planning services, focussing on young people from certain groups who were not using our services. Some key issues raised by young people were:

- They prefer accessing these services in youth-focused, community locations
- They don't like the name 'family planning services'
- They want better access to information about services via web-based materials or small portable formats

As a result, services for young people have been rebranded with the name "Check it Out". Our sexual health website was relaunched and information on sexual health services publicised via inserts in Oystercard holders which are being distributed in schools, colleges and youth centres.

[Find out more >>](#)

IT, Communications and Support



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