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13 September 2019

Damien Egan
Mayor of Lewisham
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By email only

Dear Damien

Proposed Changes to NHS Commissioning in South East London

Thank you for your letter of 9 September. I was able to circulate it to the members of my Governing Body in advance of our consideration of these proposals at our meeting that was held yesterday in public.

The outcome of our meeting was that we agreed unanimously to submit an application to NHS England to merge the six CCGs in south east London. This is also subject to agreement of our GP membership of the constitution of the new CCG.

We had a full discussion that encompassed the many areas raised in your letter. These, along with other submissions and also questions from the public were given careful consideration.

We were able to confirm that the proposed changes do not affect any service provision, and that 'the right to veto' provisions mean that any major service changes would require the unanimous support of all clinical members of the new Governing Body, while it was recognised that there is a high degree of patient care that takes place across borough boundaries.

There will be equal representation of all boroughs on the Governing Body which will be through two elected GP representative members and through the Borough Based Director (that may be a joint appointment with the local authority). For locally commissioned services, there are defined delegations to the Borough Based Board that will be responsible for primary, community and out of hospital services. The need to give due prominence and resource to engagement and involvement with our local population was confirmed.

Our ambitions to tackle health inequalities and to improve the health of our population and the quality of local services are central to these proposals, and I look forward to working with you and your colleagues as we develop our partnerships in Lewisham.

Yours sincerely



Dr Faruk Majid
Chair, NHS Lewisham CCG

cc:

Andrew Bland

NHS Lewisham CCG, Accountable Officer

Martin Wilkinson

NHS Lewisham CCG, Managing Director