

Adult and Community PDS Committee: Public Questions

In view of recent media articles (newspapers and television), which centre around serious patient safety issues, can this Committee tell the public if they have complete faith in SLHT's Board when clinicians clearly do not and what actions are this committee taking to reassure the public and restore confidence ?

Reply

Thank you for your question. These developments at South London Healthcare NHS Trust are very recent and whilst this Committee is aware, through the media, we do not yet have the information from the Health Trust to form a view or identify a way forward in light of the concerns that have been raised. Your questions have been forwarded to South London Healthcare NHS Trust and it is the Committee's intention to ask that representatives from the Healthcare Trust attend our next meeting in September so that our concerns can be aired and the response from the Trust Scrutinised.

Supplementary Question:

Has the Committee's Health Check Working Group identified any problems at the Trust, for example figures relating to pressure ulcers have increased?

Reply:

This issues was raised at the last meeting of the Committee in June. Ms Jennie Hall had attended the meeting and it was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Health Check Working Group which will start its work in September and will review the issue in detail.

Surprisingly, in view of the serious allegations made by clinicians, SLHT are not an agenda item today - what steps are this Committee taking regarding these allegations and will you invite a spokesperson for the clinicians to give you more information (perhaps confidentially) rather than relying on subjective Trust representatives' views?

Reply

The agenda for this meeting was drafted in June, before the concerns of clinicians had been raised in the media. South London Healthcare Trusts provided a briefing to the committee at its last meeting and these issues were not raised in that forum. Whilst the committee was aware of this matter, through the media, just prior to the agenda being published, there was insufficient time to include a formal report to the Committee on this issue. Ms Jennie Hall, Director of Nursing at South London Healthcare Trust, attends every Committee meeting and has made herself available to respond to any issues that may arise that do not form part of the published Committee agenda. The Committee will be scrutinising this issue at its next meeting, in September 2010, when representatives from the Trust, including any clinicians who wish to attend, will be invited to brief Members on the matters that have recently be made public.

Supplementary Question:

Will you be inviting health experts, such as representatives from Bromley LINK, to be part of the next meeting in September and ask relevant questions?

Reply:

Members of the public can ask questions at any meeting through the normal process of submitting questions. If Bromley LINK have any questions they would like to feed into Members of the Committee this would be very welcome as it is important to ensure that work is not duplicated.

Is this committee aware that some operations are being outsourced to a Private company and many patients have been sent a letter which informed them that their treatment will be delayed if they don't agree to this option? What about Patient Choice and Creating a Patient Led NHS?

This matter has been forwarded to South London Healthcare Trust for response. However, as previously advised, when representatives from the Trust attend the next PDS Meeting in September this issue will be raised with them for response.

Supplementary Question:

Mrs Mott provided documents for the Chairman to consider and highlighted the issue of patients not being able to see the doctor of their choice.

Reply:

The Chairman provided assurances that the issue would be raised with South London Healthcare Trust.