

This Council notes the statement issued on 6th January 2014 by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) of Merton, Kingston, Sutton, Richmond, Wandsworth and Croydon:

“The six south west London CCGs are actively discussing the next steps for local health services following the withdrawal of Surrey Downs CCG from the BSBV programme. As we have made clear in the past, the BSBV business case is now invalid and the options put forward through the programme are no longer on the table for consultation. It follows that all six CCGs are in the process of dissolving the committees to which they had delegated decision-making on BSBV.

“However, the challenges outlined in the BSBV case for change remain. If we do not address these challenges, we know that local services will decline in quality and that we will not be able to meet the required quality and safety standards. We are discussing with each other and with our boards how we address these challenges and we hope to make a further announcement in February.”

This Council is unanimously delighted that any current options posing a threat to services provided at St Helier hospital are now no longer viable and are therefore not now being considered.

However, this Council recognises that under NHS Call to Action the long term viability of healthcare across the south west London region is still an issue for consideration by the CCGs.

Therefore this Council resolves to request that the Chairman of Merton’s Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel asks the Chairman of our local CCG, Dr Howard Freeman, to attend the next Healthier Communities and Older People scrutiny panel meeting in order to update Members on the current position with regard to our local health services and the next steps being considered going forward.

This Council also requests that the panel members ensure that Dr Freeman is fully aware of the high regard felt by Merton residents for the professionalism and sympathetic care provided at St Helier Hospital by its staff and the strong desire of the borough’s residents to preserve A&E and Maternity Services at St Helier for the future.

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