



INFORMATION SHEET

Will you share your ideas about local healthcare?

You may have heard that hospitals in your area will be changing. The aim is to use NHS resources better and offer patients safer, more modern care in these hospitals:

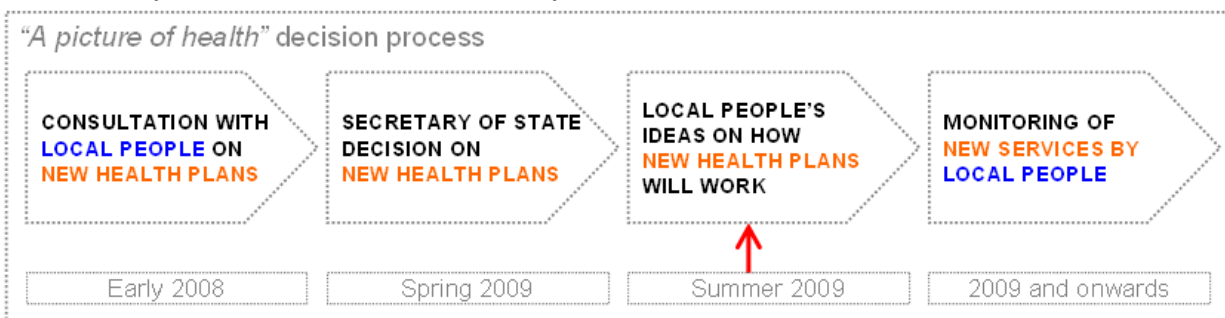
- **South London Healthcare trust based at**
 - Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough
 - Orpington Hospital
 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich
 - Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup
- **Lewisham Hospital**

The NHS in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham has been working on an improvement programme called "A Picture of Health".

Local people, Councils, NHS staff and the Secretary of State for Health have already commented on the plans. Now, before the changes go ahead, we want to make sure we get the details right - so we are asking for your views.

Where are we in the process?

The diagram below shows where we are in the process and the red arrow shows where this piece of work comes in the process.



Getting your input into how the new services will work

Your local NHS has asked an independent organisation, Health Link, to involve local people in the next set of decisions. They will be hosting meetings with local people, to gather your ideas on the way that patients get their care under the new arrangements.

These 'routes' that people follow through the NHS system are called 'patient pathways'. For example, the patient pathway for someone needing surgery would be from the GP, to a hospital and home to finish recovering.

We want to make sure the new pathways work well for patients. By coming to the meetings and sharing your experiences, you can help us with this. We'd also like to involve you in monitoring the new system once it is in place, to make sure it works well for patients.

What has been decided already?

The plans reflect important trends in modern medicine. People with the most serious problems need quick access to senior doctors and advanced technology. These scarce resources need to be together in one place. Yet where the risks are lower, people are best treated closer to home.

In line with this thinking, complex and emergency care will be concentrated at Princess Royal University Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Lewisham Hospital. Minor injuries, routine care and some outpatient services will be the new focus at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup.

What is left to decide and what difference can you make?

The next stage is to decide *how* the new system will work. We need to think about:

- How can we improve patient's experience of new health services?
- What information will people need to find their way round the new system?
- How can we improve how hospitals, GPs (family doctors) and social services work together?

The meetings are taking place before decisions have been made about how these services will operate - so there is time to influence and improve how they will work for you and for the benefit of other local patients.

What will happen at the meetings?

We will ask what you think about patient pathways including:

- Urgent care, including A&E
- Planned surgery
- Care for medical conditions
- Day Surgery
- Maternity
- Emergency surgery
- Gynaecology
- Care for Children & Young People

We may also cover patient pathways for all types of care that will not be provided in hospital, including:

- Care in care homes
- Therapies such as physiotherapy
- District nurses
- Care for dementia

Where will the meetings be?

The attached form shows dates, times and locations of the meetings.

What should I do next?

Please complete the form and send it to us at the FREEPOST address shown indicating which meeting you would like to attend. You may attend both if you wish. You may also access the form online on www.health-link.org.uk .