

PATIENTS' FORUM

FOR THE LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE

Malcolm Alexander
Chair
Patients' Forum Ambulances Services (London)
30 Portland Rise
N4 2PP

- LHC
- Jeremy Hunt

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
SW1A 2NS

April 4th 2013

Dear Mr Hunt,

Securing Sustainable NHS Services in South London-Emergency Ambulances

Thank you so much for your letter of March 20th 2013 in reply to ours of January 22nd and February 18th, regarding our considerable concerns about your decision on the future of the South London Healthcare NHS Trust and Lewisham Hospital. We understand that your decision was informed by advice provided by Sir Bruce Keogh.

Unfortunately, your reply failed to respond to most the issues and questions that we raised with you. I have therefore represented our questions and would be grateful if you would ensure that we receive a detailed response for each of the issues we raise below.

- 1) **You have failed to fully consider the impact of substantially downgrading the highly effective and successful A&E Department at Lewisham Hospital on the provision of emergency care in south London.** Your decision will have an untoward effect on the care of people requiring emergency treatment and will put great pressure on other A&E Departments, especially on King's College Hospital. We believe your decision will cause considerable harm to the safety and clinical care of seriously ill patients.

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service within 19 minutes. What happened to 'no decision about me without me'? Is that now a redundant policy?

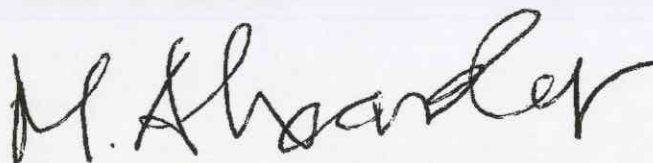
We are of course pleased that you have promised that, "detailed planning and monitoring will ensure the necessary capacity of new services is in place before any changes to existing services."

However, your decision on the future of the South London Trust and Lewisham Hospital does not appear to be based on and derived from the Coalitions own policies which require this major service changes to:

- a) Protect clinical outcomes for patients
- b) Ensure sufficient clinical input
- c) Ensure changes lead to improved patients care in the local area.
- d) Be underpinned by clear clinical evidence.
- e) Provide for adoption of standards in south London that define the best available clinical practice.

Will you be kind enough to let the Forum have full and detailed answers to the questions and issues raised above, and ensure that all of the issues we have raised in relation to the impact on the emergency ambulance services for patients who are critically are properly and fully examined?

Malcolm Alexander



Chair
Patients Forum LAS

Copy to: Sir Bruce Keogh and Ann Radmore

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