

Our ref: FOI ID 35394

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding the operation of the NHS services within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/Response:

1. What is the present operational situation regarding Southport & Sefton NHS regarding funding that has been made available from Central Government?

The above information is published on our website. Please see the link below. Also attached for ease is the most up to date financial position.

<http://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/about-us/governing-body/governing-body-meetings/>

2. How is Central Government-provided funding being spent and allocated?

Forms part of the Governing Body Reports attached (See Appendix 1)

Also broken down in CCG 5 year strategy:

http://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/media/1156/summary_5_year_strategy_september_2014.pdf

Please see response from Dwayne Johnson, Director Social Care and Health, Sefton Council sent to you via email dated 24 February 2017.

In terms of the Council these are set out within the annual budget framework and the Medium Term financial plan which is reported to Full Council. Regular reports to Cabinet highlight where funding is spent, including pressures and areas of mitigation.

3. What provisions (if such exist) are there to support ongoing services such as Adult and Children's Social Care across the Board?

Please see response from Dwayne Johnson, Director Social Care and Health, Sefton Council sent to you via email dated 24 February 2017.

The Care Act 2014 clearly sets out the approach which all Councils must take to provide support to adults and there are various Children Acts but in particular the Children Act 1989, 2004 and the Children and Families Act 2014 – these Acts clearly stipulate the approach Councils must take relating to eligibility, screening and support to people.

4. What Strategies are in place to alleviate Ambulance congestion and waiting times at Hospitals?

North West Ambulance Services (NWAS) are constantly reviewing demand into acute organisations and, where safe to do so, deflecting crews to nearby providers as required. NWAS liaise with acute providers in and out of hours to discuss any waiting time concerns and agree strategies to alleviate organisational pressures and minimise ambulance turnaround times. Additionally, both Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust are working with the Emergency Care Improvement Programme, following a whole system review undertaken in November 2016, to improve emergency care performance which includes strategies to achieve ambulance turnaround standards.

The CCG are working with its locally commissioned community provider to secure kite mark status for the South Sefton Walk in Centre which will allow conveyance of appropriate patients to the Walk in Centre and reduce demand into the acute provider.

5. Is the Southport A&E Service closing and if so what can be done to prevent this (if true)?

NHS Southport and Formby CCG is committed to providing as many services as possible, as locally as possible. The CCG is beginning to work with S&O, its hospital clinicians, member GPs and with NHS West Lancashire CCG to review how the challenges facing the hospital can be addressed into the future.

This work is at a very early stage and any review of services at the trust would involve patients and the wider populations that use them, so we can listen to and consider their views at the appropriate time.

Importantly, at this time we are unable to predict the outcome of any such a review process and therefore the CCG has no current plans to close A&E services.

6. How have efficiencies already and continue to be made to account for those that use the NHS and other public health- related services?

NHS South Sefton CCG can only comment on services that we commission. The CCG is operating in a challenging financial environment with significant efficiency measures required to meet statutory financial duties. The QIPP programme (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) has been developed to improve quality of services through redesign and more effective use of resources which delivers efficiency savings and improves service provision for patients.

In addition, every efficiency scheme is subject to a Quality Impact Assessment which provides assurance that quality of services is at a minimum not affected, if not improved.

7. Are there any funding grants available to my local NHS, CCG and Local Authority that may be able to support services such as Social Care, mental Health, etc?

For NHS South Sefton CCG the majority of our funding is determined through central allocations, only occasionally would we receive grant funding and we would apply proactively as and when funding became available.

Please see response from Dwayne Johnson, Director Social Care and Health, Sefton Council sent to you via email dated 24 February 2017.

The only two main grants available now to the Council are the Care Act Grant and the Better Care Fund and these are reported through to Council. They provide services such as re-ablement and we have utilised some of the funding to increase social work support because of demands to the services.

8. What could be done to restore the Maternity Ward at Southport Hospital so that people may be officially born in Southport again once more?

NHS South Sefton CCG continues to work with other local commissioners to look at the population needs and how we can maximise the health outcomes for patients as well as utilise resources more effectively.

9. How can the Local Authority best support the community utilise the NHS more effectively in the short and long- term?

NHS South Sefton CCG have an integrated commissioning group which is jointly chaired between ourselves and the Local Authority to consider how we can more effectively commission and utilise services.

10. Are there legalities as to what Political Groups can say or do if they have been/are acting upon false information that may/ may not be intended to undermine Central Government's efforts to support communities across the entirety of the United Kingdom?

NHS South Sefton CCG would advise you speak with your democratic services team or your political party to provide clarity on what action can be taken in such circumstances.