

Implementing the Secretary of State's decision to dissolve South London Healthcare NHS Trust and the associated organisational changes

In July 2012 the Secretary of State for Health enacted the Regime for Unsustainable NHS Providers (UPR) at South London Healthcare NHS Trust (SLHT) as a result of the Trust's continuing financial challenges and lack of a credible plan for sustainability. The Trust Special Administrator (TSA) appointed to SLHT made a set of recommendations to the Secretary of State on 7 January 2013. Subject to amendments to the service reconfiguration recommendations suggested by Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director the Secretary of State accepted the TSA's recommendations.

Following this decision the London Borough of Lewisham and the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign launched a formal Judicial Review process focused on the decision relating to the proposed service reconfigurations. On 31 July 2013 the initial judgement on their cases quashed the service change recommendation and all work to implement recommendation 5 was halted. However, this has not affected the implementation of other recommendations that were not impacted by the Judicial Review.

The Judicial Review has not impacted on the requirement to implement the organisational transactions outlined in the TSA's report. These included:

- The dissolution of SLHT
- The transfer of Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup (QMH) to Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust (Oxleas)
- The transfer of a number of clinical services provided at QMH to Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust (DGT)
- The acquisition of Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (KCH)
- The transfer of Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) to Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust (LHT)

The Trust Special Administrator, NHS Trust Development Authority and the NHS Trusts involved in the organisational changes are continuing to plan and prepare for the implementation of these elements of the Secretary of State's decisions. Subject to the conclusion of these plans, and approval from relevant bodies, they are working to establish the agreed transfers of the assets and liabilities of South London Healthcare NHS Trust (such as buildings and staff) on 30 September 2013, in accordance with the Secretary of State for Health's announcement that the transfer should happen by 01 October 2013.

A number of bodies will be required to give final approval to the transactions over the course of September. During September the relevant bodies, including the receiver Trusts, will be asked to approve the organisational changes outlined above.

Before the transactions can be confirmed, and South London Healthcare NHS Trust dissolved, the Secretary of State will also need to give approval.

Going forward, governance arrangements will continue to focus on ensuring the provision of high quality, safe services in South East London.