

Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

14th March 2024

Dear Minister,

We wrote to you in January expressing our serious concerns at the potential reconfiguration of children's cancer services for South London, most of Surrey, Kent, Medway, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove.

We are very disappointed at the NHS decision this week to locate the new Principal Treatment Centre at the Evelina Hospital.

As Council Leaders of affected areas, we know that this issue is vitally important to local families. The decision to move paediatric cancer services to the Evelina means the loss of services from hospitals with significant expertise in delivering this care. St George's Hospital, the other option considered in the consultation for the new Principal Treatment Centre, has 25 years of experience in delivering paediatric cancer care, including complex surgery.

We also know that the removal of children's cancer care from St George's could have a significant impact on other services provided to children, in particular surgery and pathology. The children's cancer care service is currently closely interlinked with other specialist services at the hospital.

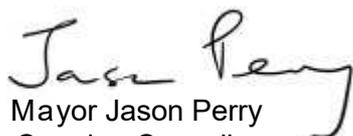
Parents of children with cancer have said that they prefer to take them to hospital by car rather than public transport (especially if children are on immunosuppressants). This means that locating the Principal Treatment Centre in central London is a significant concern.

We feel strongly that this decision is not in the best interests of the children and families we represent. We will be taking this very seriously and doing everything we can to dispute the decision, including considering the use of our formal call-in powers.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Simon Hogg
Leader of Wandsworth Council



Mayor Jason Perry
Croydon Council



Councillor Andreas Kirsch
Leader of Kingston Council



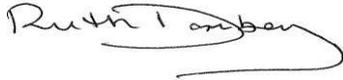
Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader of Merton Council



Councillor Gareth Roberts
Leader of Richmond Council



Councillor Tim Oliver
Leader of Surrey Council



Councillor Ruth Dombey
Leader of Sutton Council