

Emailed to: [Andrew.baird@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.baird@surreycc.gov.uk)

28 September 2017

Adults Health Select Committee  
Surrey County Council  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 2DW

Dear Adults Health Select Committee

Surrey Local Medical Committee, the statutory representative body of NHS GPs, would like to formally raise our concerns about the new integrated sexual health service contract for Surrey commissioned by Surrey County Council and NHSE, and delivered by Central and North West London NHS Trust (CNWL).

From 1st April 2017 when this contract came into effect, providing a cash saving of £2million/year to the Council, the HIV service at Frimley Park Hospital has closed, and the service at the Blanche Heriot Unit is due to close at the end of September. The LMC has concerns that some of the current patients of this service will not be able access the new service which will be based in Guildford, and hence will drop out of their treatment and monitoring.

Moreover, the LMC has significant concerns about patient access to contraception and sexual health services throughout the county as it is understood that fewer clinics are being offered. The resultant effect is that patients are already presenting to general practice for their contraception and sexual health needs citing difficulty in accessing the new service.

The cuts to this service are increasing demand on General Practitioners in Surrey, at a time when General Practice is at crisis point, with GPs facing unprecedented workload and workforce stresses. Furthermore, GPs are not always appropriately trained or commissioned to offer some specialist contraceptive and sexual health services.

The LMC is disappointed to read in the Surrey County Council [approval paper to award a contract for the provision of an integrated sexual health service](#), that "*the provider and the council will work closely with GPs and pharmacies and will cross refer service users as appropriate to primary care provision to ensure efficiency across the system*". This was in the context of mitigating the financial risk of the budget being insufficient should volumes of activity increase significantly or should the service redesign take longer than envisaged. The LMC would like to know what involvement GP representatives or GP providers had in this decision to cross refer service users to GPs as this is not something it has been consulted about.

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In summary, the LMC would like to raise its concerns on behalf of Surrey GPs about the provision of the new Integrated Sexual Health Service. This has been undertaken without appropriate engagement of General Practice, risks adversely affecting patient health by reducing access, and represents an unacceptable shift of workload onto General Practice.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clare Sieber', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Dr Clare Sieber**  
Medical Director