



Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

17/07/2024

Dear Secretary of State,

### **South London and South East England Children's Cancer Principal Treatment Centre**

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. We look forward to working with you in our many areas of overlapping responsibility.

Our seven Councils have taken the unprecedented step of coming together to each submit formal referrals to you to call-in the decision to consolidate the South London and South East England Children's Cancer Principal Treatment Centre at the Evelina Hospital. We trust that you are aware that this is a decision we have campaigned against since the intention was first expressed by NHS England.

Together we represent 2.7 million people. Our Councils are led by Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives. We hope our united action on this decision is a signal to you of the strength of feeling we all have on this matter.

The communities we represent have overwhelmingly told us of their concern at the decision made by NHS England. The cost-benefit analysis of travelling to the Evelina in central London was designed in a way which, understandably, considered numerical factors such as time and cost, but failed to adequately understand the experience of patients – which is of paramount importance. One parent said they would be “completely devastated if this change goes ahead” due to the additional stress of driving into central London. Public transport is not a viable option for those with an immunosuppressed child, and the stress of having to drive through central London, often at short notice, with limited parking capacity at the Evelina, is simply not a viable situation to put families through.

Further, St George's Hospital has 25 years of experience delivering cancer care to

children, including complex surgery, and this experience cannot be replicated at the Evelina. We struggle to see how the difficulties and complexity associated with trying to replicate the existing services and experience at St George's Hospital, including potentially asking staff to travel between the hospitals, represents better value for patient care and safety or improves the conditions and wellbeing of staff. We understand that the safest option for patients is to continue services at St George's Hospital, and that a move to the Evelina would be a step in the wrong direction.

Making the NHS fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century must place patient experience at the very forefront. Each of our seven Councils' formal referrals contain greater detail on how we think this can be better achieved by retaining existing services at St George's.

We would like to work with you going forwards on this and other issues, and making sure our communities are at the forefront of decisions which affect them.

We hope you will agree to call-in this decision.

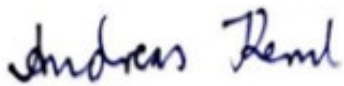
Yours sincerely,



Councillor Simon Hogg  
Leader of Wandsworth Council



Councillor Gareth Roberts  
Leader of Richmond Council



Councillor Andreas Kirsch  
Leader of Kingston Council



Mayor Jason Perry  
Croydon Council



Councillor Ross Garrod  
Leader of Merton Council



Councillor Tim Oliver  
Leader of Surrey Council



Councillor Barry Lewis  
Leader of Sutton Council