

Questions to Adults & Health Select Committee – 4 April 2018

Question submitted by Liz Sawyer

There is evidence that patients who previously used sexual health services commissioned by Surrey County Council have found the new model of services difficult to access and are choosing to use services outside the county. What services are Surrey County Council cross charged for by other sexual health service providers eg NHS Solent at Aldershot Health Centre? How much has been cross charged in the 2017/18 financial year and was this included in the Budget?

Response

The Committee has asked Surrey County Council to respond to the concerns raised within your question and has received the following response from:

‘Since 1 April 2013, Local Authorities in England have been mandated to ensure that open access, confidential sexual health services are available to all people who are present in their area (whether resident in that area or not). The requirement for Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) services to be provided on an open access basis is stipulated in the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013 (“the Regulations”).

This means that Surrey residents are able to access out of county services and our local provider provides services to non-Surrey residents. The activity is cross charged at the locally commissioned rate and supported by backing data. Surrey is part of a South East Commissioners network that has developed a regional policy that addresses cross charging to ensure that there is a consistent approach. In 17/18 our out of area budget was £1,913,000 and in 18/19 our out of area budget is £1,500,000.

The sexual health service are commissioned to provide a service that is outcomes focused and meets the need identified within the sexual health needs assessment. The new service model includes, three clinical hubs, four clinical outreach spokes, a clinical outreach offer for those most at risk of sexual ill health and access to online services. Service provision will be monitored and flexed to meet need where appropriate, particularly in relation to the outreach element.

Mr Ken Gulati
Chairman – Adults and Health Select Committee
4 April 2018