



Thurrock Council, Civic Offices, New Road,
Grays Thurrock, Essex RM17 6SL

Ms Ann Radmore
East of England Regional Director
NHS England
East Wing
Victoria House
Capital Park
Fulbourn
Cambridge
CB21 5XB

Letter sent by email to: Annradmore@nhs.net

Friday 16 August 2019

Dear Ms Radmore

RE: HOSC Attendance – Reduction of Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group Budget 2019/20 and wider NHS England proposals to merge 5 CCG’s across the Mid and South Essex STP geographical footprint.

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2019 regarding the above.

It is disappointing to learn that you are not minded to agree to attend or secure the attendance of another suitably senior representative from NHS England (East of England) for our Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5 September 2019.

I note your letter proposes that 2 of your Executive Director colleagues meet with me and my fellow councillors in a closed session during early autumn. While I welcome a briefing session with NHS England colleagues in the future I should make clear that Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSC) have a statutory legal duty to scrutinise decisions made by the NHS that affect health services provided to residents within their jurisdiction. Thurrock HOSC is the Committee to which the Thurrock Council has delegated overview and scrutiny functions.

As I explained in my previous correspondence HOSC wishes to provide scrutiny to the decision to reduce Thurrock CCG’s 2019/20 budget and the recent decision by NHS England to write to Thurrock CCG’s Accountable Officer requesting that the CCG set out a timetable for merger with the four other CCGs in Mid and South Essex by September 2019.

The scope of the issues we wish to scrutinise at HOSC do not relate to information which might be exempt (for the purposes of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) and which could be held in closed session, and your letter does not set out reasons why a closed session should be held in this case. Therefore it would not be appropriate for the authority to exercise its statutory functions and scrutinise these issues in a closed session.

We welcome the statement that you have made about the importance of place and joint working with the Local Authority. Part of the purpose of the HOSC session will be to discuss with NHS England how we deliver that within Thurrock.

I reiterate my request that either you or a suitably senior NHS England representative agrees to attend the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee on 5 September and ask that NHS England honours the regulatory requirements¹ set out in my previous letter which enable Local authorities to require any member or employee of a NHS body to attend before them to answer such questions as appear to the authority to be necessary for discharging its relevant functions.

I feel that we have provided reasonable notice of the intended date of attendance as required by regulation 27 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013) due to my first request for NHS England representation at Thurrock HOSC on 5 September was initially made in my letter of 20 June 2019.

I would therefore be grateful if you would re-consider your decision not to attend, or alternatively arrange for another senior representative from NHS England to be present for this item. I would be grateful if you would email Jenny Shade in our Democratic Services Team (JShade@thurrock.gov.uk) to confirm who from NHS England will be attending.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Cllr V Holloway
Chair of Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

cc. Mandy Ansell, Accountable Officer, Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group; Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Thurrock Council

¹ Regulation 27 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013