

Public questions and answers: Integrated Care Partnership meeting, 8 February 2024

Questions received from the public with some initial responses

<p>Question 1</p> <p>Member of the public</p>	<p>1. It is not enough for the ICS Chair to assert (bullet point (a) in the letter) that the quality monitoring processes in place are robust without providing any details of these processes.</p> <p>2. The information provided by the Chief Nurse regarding the role of the CQC plus details of the responsible officers at KCH and GSTT is useful. OHSEL (precursor to the SEL ICS) managed the procurement of the pathology contract and the contract was eventually awarded to a partnership made up of KCH, GSTT and Synlab. Therefore it is essential that the public has a knowledge not only of the responsible officers but also a full understanding of the monitoring processes if a suspicion of “pupils managing their own homework” is to be avoided</p> <p>3. Further to Sir Norman Lamb’s comments on the principle of transparency, with regard to service quality, it was agreed that the ICS’s Principles of Transparency would be shared with the Partnership. Has this happened? Can it be demonstrated that these principles have been observed in the monitoring of this contract?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>The ICS noted the comments made and reiterates a commitment to transparency where possible and has included some details in the matters arising note to allow comment by members at the 8 Feb meeting.</p>
<p>Question 2</p> <p>Member of the public</p>	<p>In March 2023, a total of 112,500 vacancies were recorded across the NHS in England. Of these, 40,100 were nursing vacancies (9% of the nursing workforce) and around 8,550 were doctors (6% of the medical workforce).</p> <p>(The NHS workforce in England - House of Commons Library ,July 2023)</p> <p>Can you tell me how many vacancies there are currently in South East London?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>As at September 2023 the vacancy rate across SEL NHS Trusts was 11.6% or 7045 WTE (working time equivalent).</p>