

Public questions and answers: Integrated Care Board meeting, 17 April 2024

Questions received from the public with responses from the ICB

<p>Question 1</p>	<p>In response to a previous question on Physician Associates the Board offered assurance that the 55 P.A.s in South East London work according to NHS guidelines and are well supported in their work and no risks are posed in the way they work. But in March this year, following the publication of BMA Guidelines on the role the role of Medical Associate Professionals within the NHS (ref 1), Dr Philip Banfield, Chair of the BMA stated that "MAPs have an important role in the NHS, but only if we can provide a framework for safe and effective practice." (ref 2)</p> <p>Given that a survey of more than 18,000 doctors revealing that 87 per cent of respondents felt the way in which MAPs are used in the NHS either 'always' or 'sometimes' posed a risk to patient safety, and that P.As. are known to be substituted for GPs in certain Operose Practices, can members of the board offer us assurance that they will support the implementation of the new BMA Guidelines on the use of Physician Associates throughout South East London.</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Lambeth KONP</p> <p>Ref 1 https://www.bma.org.uk/bma-media-centre/bma-sets-out-first-national-guidance-for-the-role-and-responsibilities-of-physician-associates-in-major-intervention-for-patient-safety</p> <p>Ref 2 https://www.bma.org.uk/news-and-opinion/at-a-glance-landmark-bma-guidance-on-physician-associates</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>The ICB always supports good practice implementation in general practice, and will support good practice in relation to Physician Associates, noting that the NHS also recently published principles defining medical associate roles as part of their work with the GMC, trade unions, royal colleges and other stakeholders.</p> <p>As noted in the ICBs response to a previous question, Physician Associates work under the supervision of a named senior doctor (such as a General Practitioner) and can work autonomously providing care as part of the general practice team with appropriate support.</p>
<p>Question 2</p>	<p>The Royal College of Ophthalmologists has recently expressed concern over the increase in the proportion of NHS funded cataract operations being carried out by the private sector and the potential negative impact on NHS Ophthalmology.</p>

	<p>Research shows the percentage of NHS cataract operations delivered by the private, for-profit sector has increased from 24% in 2018/19 to 55% in 2022/23. https://chpi.org.uk/papers/reports/out-of-sight-understanding-the-hidden-impact-of-cataract-outsourcing-on-nhs-finances/ Can the ICB tell us: [A] - what proportion of NHS funded cataract operations were carried out by private, for-profit companies in South East London ICS in 2018/19 and in 2022/23? [B]- what companies were commissioned and who were the commissioners?</p>																									
<p>Response</p>	<p>The ICB receives Trust-Wide data for its NHS Providers, but only data pertaining to SEL Patients from Independent Sector Providers (ISPs) i.e. private / for profit companies.</p> <p>To ensure a standardised approach, we have therefore excluded non-SEL patients from the answers below. All information provided relates to activity paid for by SEL ICB, for SEL patients.</p> <p>[A]: what proportion of NHS funded cataract operations were carried out by private, for-profit companies in South East London ICS in 2018/19 and in 2022/23?</p> <p>Table 1 shows the percentage of SEL ICB funded cataract surgery activity that was carried out at ISPs and NHS trusts (regardless of location) in 2018/19 and 2022/23:</p> <p><i>Table 1:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="349 1010 1563 1209"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">2018/19</th> <th colspan="2">2022/23</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Activity</th> <th>% of Activity</th> <th>Activity</th> <th>% of Activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Independent Sector Healthcare Provider</td> <td>521</td> <td>4.6%</td> <td>7,145</td> <td>45.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NHS Trust</td> <td>10,855</td> <td>95.4%</td> <td>8,652</td> <td>54.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>11,376</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>15,797</td> <td>100.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Table 2 shows the percentage of SEL ICB funded cataract surgery activity that was carried out at ISPs and NHS Trusts geographically located within SEL in 2018/19 and 2022/23:</p> <p><i>Table 2:</i></p>		2018/19		2022/23			Activity	% of Activity	Activity	% of Activity	Independent Sector Healthcare Provider	521	4.6%	7,145	45.2%	NHS Trust	10,855	95.4%	8,652	54.8%	Grand Total	11,376	100.0%	15,797	100.0%
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	2018/19 Activity	% of Activity	2022/23	% of Activity
Independent Sector Healthcare Provider	481	4.8%	6,913	48.5%
NHS Trust	9,517	95.2%	7,326	51.5%
Grand Total	9,998	100.0%	14,239	100.0%

[B]: What companies were commissioned and who were the commissioners?

SEL ICB holds a contract / is the host commissioner for the following companies for sites within the SEL geography:

Company	Site
Community Health and Eyecare	New Cross
Spa Medica	Bromley
Circle Health Group Limited	Blackheath Hospital Chelsfield Park Hospital Shirley Oaks Hospital Sloane Hospital
Ramsay Healthcare UK	West Valley Hospital (<i>site closed and contract ended in December 2023</i>).

Activity for SEL patients was also carried out and paid for by SEL ICB as Non-Contracted Activity at the following sites, which were commissioned by other ICBs.

Company	Site
Community Health and Eyecare Limited	Community Eyecare Surgical Centre Slough

	Community Eyecare Cataract and Surgical Centre Community Health & Eyecare Ltd (Intu Watford)
New Medical Systems Limited	Norwich Northampton
Optegra UK	Optegra Eye Hospital Maidstone Optegra London Eye Hospital
Spamedica	Spamedica Romford Spamedica Poole Spamedica Sittingbourne Spamedica Epsom Spamedica Wirral Spamedica Liverpool Spamedica Chelmsford Spamedica Hull Spamedica Watford Spamedica Wokingham
Circle Health Group Limited	Goring Hall Hospital London Independent Hospital Southend Private Hospital
Practice Plus Group	Practice Plus Group Surgical Centre - Gillingham
Ramsay Healthcare UK Operations Limited	North Downs Hospital
Benenden Hospital	Benenden Hospital

<p>Question 3</p>	<p>Who is responsible for ensuring that the local information eg 'in your area' on the selondonics.org website, actually exists and is up to date and relevant?</p> <p>I ask this as information for Lewisham Carers.. under Living Well in Lewisham-Carers - support available for all carers, with respect to mental health is severely lacking; eg the link for Lewisham Therapies- Resources has had absolutely no information holding for 'Bereavement ' or ' Other Issues', (which should hold the Lewisham Mind Directory of more than 600 organisations available to Lewisham Residents), in recent months and to date.</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>We are sorry that information you would expect to see appears to be missing. The South East London Integrated Care System website provides links to more detailed service information provided by partner organisations. The information you refer to is on the Lewisham Council website. We will review the information we publish on our website with relevant leads across the Lewisham Local Health and Care Partnership to ensure it is complete and up to date.</p>
<p>Question 4</p>	<p>What measures have been taken to address the deficiencies in the Eltham Palace surgery following its 'inadequate' rating in last year's CQC inspection report</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Following publication of the CQC report and inadequate rating in August 2023, primary care commissioning and contracting colleagues from Southeast London ICB have worked extremely closely with the GP partners and Practice Manager providing advice, guidance and support to remedy the issues raised. Given the varying nature of these, Subject Matter Experts (SME's) covering clinical and non-clinical areas have been appointed to review action plans developed by the practice, seek assurance that each is being addressed with measures put in place to prevent recurrence. The practice is also required to submit monthly progress reports to the CQC to demonstrate achievement of the areas outlined in the action plan. Progress reports are then provided to the Primary Care Working Group and Healthy Greenwich Partnership, the latter holding delegated responsibility for Primary Care Commissioning.</p> <p>In addition to the support offered by commissioning and contracting colleagues, the practice has reported securing further support from the Primary Care Network, Local Medical Committee, and General Medical Council. In addition, support from Health Watch particularly on the issues relating to patient experience.</p> <p>From a contractual perspective, the ICB is in the process of considering what further action should be taken i.e. the issuing of breach and remedial notices against the relevant areas stated within the CQC report.</p>