

## Southwark update, 7 April 2020

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- 1. Update on Southwark's COVID-19 community centres and patient communication**

As you will be aware from the letter sent to Southwark GP practices yesterday from QHS, IHL and NHS SEL CCG Southwark team, part of Southwark's COVID-19 emergency response is to temporarily open two COVID-19 community centres, one in the south of the borough at Lister Primary Care Centre (101 Peckham Road, London SE15 5LJ) for patients registered in south practices and the other in the north of the borough at the Villa Street Medical Centre (47 Villa Street, London SE17 2EL) for patients registered in north practices.

Primary care colleagues have been working extremely hard to set up these centres and we are pleased to confirm that there will be a soft launch of these two sites from tomorrow Wednesday 8 April 2020. Your federations will be in touch with you directly about how practices can book your patients into these services using the pathway we sent out yesterday.

We would like to thank all the GP practices that have been in contact with the federations to enable their staff to work at these and at the Essential GP Services sites as well as practices that have relocated/changed to make this happen. We know that working in this way is very different but will enable our overall registered population to continue to access primary care services during this pandemic at the right place.

Patient communications about these changes will be available on the [old Southwark CCG website](#). This will clearly articulate to patients that access to primary care services is still through their own GP practice or 111. We ask you to redirect your own GP websites to this site so patients can access the most up to date information if you are not able to regularly update your website. We will make sure this is updated regularly and will be live from tomorrow when we have updated this with some NHSE guidance regarding consistent language

### **2. Extension of prescribing rights to Independent Prescribers**

In order to support practices to ensure patients have timely access to their medicines, Independent NMPs registered with Southwark CCG will be supported to extend their scope of

practice. The extension must be agreed in writing between the NMP and their clinical lead/mentor. Please find attached letter (**attachment 1**) and agreement template (**attachment 2**) for submission to [Southwark Medicines Optimisation Team](#)

### 3. New guidelines for issuing contraception during COVID-19 pandemic, and an overview of sexual health services that are operating online and in Southwark

Please see **attachment 3** which summarises the latest guidance for issuing contraception during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as alternative access routes for contraception and STI testing and treatment in Southwark. As a result of the current crisis, we may see significantly adverse sexual, reproductive health and HIV outcomes for the general population, including a rise in unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and abortions.

### 4. SLAM Assessment and Liaison Team

General practice is advised to continue using the Assessment and Liaison Team as usual.

**South GP Line:** 07869 819 311 (Mon – Fri 9 – 5)  
**South Team:** 020 3228 9454

**North GP Line:** 07772 930 082 (Mon – Fri 9 – 5)  
**North Team:** 020 3228 9454

**Adult home treatment team:** 020 328 3500

**Attachments 4 and 5** contain the names and contact details of the A&L north and south clusters.

### 5. Talking Therapies Service

Talking Therapies Southwark continues to take referrals and are continuing to offer our patients telephone appointments, digital therapy or video sessions whenever possible to people registered with a GP in Southwark.

**Website:** <https://slam-iapt.nhs.uk/southwark/welcome-to-southwark-psychological-therapies-service/>

**Referrals and contact details:** <https://slam-iapt.nhs.uk/southwark/welcome-to-southwark-psychological-therapies-service/contact-us/>

### 6. SLAM Older Adults Services

#### SLAM Memory Service

The memory service is working through the cases they already have booked in and finalising diagnosis. They are currently not accepting any new referrals unless someone is under 60 where a quick diagnosis could make a real difference. They are not putting anyone on a waiting list but ask that GPs refer back in the future when things have settled down.

Referral form is on DXS.

## Older Adults Community Teams

The Older Adult Community Team is accepting referrals and doing very detailed triage to establish urgency and seeing the most urgent and at-risk cases. They are in phone contact for those people who are less at risk. Depending how long the situation continues they will move to reviewing these people face to face.

**Tel:** 020 3228 6920.

## Home Treatment Team:

The HTT is open and taking referrals and focussing on those most at risk.

**Tel:** 020 3228 2304

## The Care Home Intervention Team

The team support patients who have particularly challenging behaviour who are aged 65 years and over with mental health problems and anyone with a diagnosis of dementia living in a residential or nursing home. The team is seeing cases where the placement is at risk. They also have a lot of home contact.

**Tel:** 020 3228 6928

## Dementia Nurse Specialist

The new Dementia Nurse Specialist has started in post but, due to the current situation, he has stayed with his current team. He will be able to start in the new role as soon as general practice is able to take forward this initiative.

### 7. Details of voluntary sector organisations providing support to those in crisis and for those with mental health needs

**Attachment 6** provides a list of national and local support for those in crisis including men and younger people, broader mental health and wellbeing support, sources of support for older people with dementia and their families and wellbeing support for children and young people.

### 8. Distress tolerance handout and toolkit

**Attachments 7 and 8** are a handout and a toolkit for people outlining crisis survival skills and skills for tolerating painful events when you cannot make things better straight away

### 9. Sources of council support for vulnerable patients and all residents

For any of your *vulnerable patients* who can't leave the house due to COVID-19 and who may not have friends, family or neighbours who can help with the delivery of essential supplies, you and they can:

- **Phone the council:** 020 7525 5000 – option 3
- **Email the council:** [covidsupport@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:covidsupport@southwark.gov.uk)
- **Refer:** [via the online referral form](#)

The council also has a range of useful resources for *all residents* on their website including access to food, voluntary sector help and advice, financial support and housing advice.

[Please click here for further information.](#)