



KING GEORGE ELECTIVE CARE CENTRE

We have been chosen as the preferred bidder to run the elective care centre at King George Hospital. Monitor is investigating the commissioning of the service, and people are being asked to have their say.

Background

Following a competitive tender process, BHRUT has been chosen as the preferred bidder to run the elective care centre based at King George Hospital.

We put in a high-quality bid focused on continuing to improve care and reduce waiting times for our patients.

The centre is currently run by a private company - Care UK - as the North East London Treatment Centre. Care UK also bid for the contract, but were not successful. They have now lodged a complaint with regulators Monitor about the way in which commissioners carried out the selection process.

This means that an investigation is underway, and interested parties – including patients, clinicians,

stakeholders and our healthcare partners - have been invited to submit their responses by 11 September.

We are extremely disappointed that this investigation is taking place and has delayed the opening of the King George Elective Care Centre for our patients.

Why we are the preferred bidder

Being named as the preferred bidder shows that commissioners have real confidence in the quality of our services and the care that we provide to our patients.

It's great news for the communities of North East London – some of the most deprived in the country



– and for the health economy.

Putting the elective care centre into NHS hands means that patients will have better continuity of care, and waiting times will be reduced.

At the moment, the centre is not running at its full capacity. We will be extending opening hours and employing additional NHS staff to ensure that more people can be treated more quickly.

Around 15,000 people a year will be able to have routine, low-risk surgery at the centre, without needing an overnight stay in hospital.

Our bid demonstrated the very best value for money, meaning there will also be additional funds available to support the local health economy; a far better use of taxpayers' money.

With both clinical and financial benefits, the Clinical Commissioning Groups chose us to provide the service for the local population.

Care UK's contract to provide services at the treatment centre expires in October, as does its lease on the premises.

We had put plans in place to take over the running of the centre from November, offering a seamless transition for local patients and GPs.

As Monitor's investigation is not expected to conclude until February 2015, we are unable to open the King George Elective Care Centre in November as planned.

What are they investigating?

Care UK was told on 30 June that its bid had been unsuccessful. On 3 July it lodged a complaint with Monitor about the tender process and the proposed pricing arrangements for the services.

Monitor is therefore investigating whether the CCGs' actions, in choosing us as preferred bidder, met with the procurement, patient choice and

competition regulations, and the national tariff payment system.

While we are disappointed at the delay in awarding the contract, we are more than happy to fully support the investigation and will provide commissioners and Monitor with any information they need.

How to get involved

Monitor has today published a "Statement of Issues" - available here - setting out Care UK's complaint, and the areas it will be looking at.

As well as looking at the legal side of the tender process, it also wants to be assured that the method used by the CCGs enabled them to be assured of the improved quality and efficiency of the services, and that it would best meet patients' needs.

We are confident that putting the elective care centre into the hands of our Trust – the largest healthcare provider in the area - will enable us to give excellent care to our local population, and offer the best value for money.

If you would like to have your say, responses can be emailed to nelectiveservices@monitor.gov.uk by close of business on 11 September.

Monitor plans to publish all submissions, so if your response includes confidential information, please let them know where and what that is.

We are keen that as many people as possible have a chance to put forward their opinion – this is your local treatment centre.

If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us by emailing communications@bhrhospitals.nhs.uk