

**19 June**



## ***World Sickle Cell Day***

### **Delivering impact through change**

Three months into 2026/27, specialised commissioning arrangements continue to evolve whilst South London partners remain focussed on what matters most: improving care, reducing inequalities, and supporting our populations.

This edition highlights how collaboration across providers, ICBs, networks and communities is helping South London deliver through transition – from World Sickle Cell Day activities and HIV service continuity, to sustainability work and national recognition for our programmes.

### **INSIDE**

#### **National / regional landscape**

- Specialised commissioning transition
- NHS leadership changes
- Priorities set at NHSConfed

#### **SLOSS updates**

#### **Sustainability review**

#### **Special: World Sickle Cell Day**

#### **South London transformation**

- Blood borne viruses | HIV, hepatitis

#### ***Want to know more?***

[Get in touch](#) and we can share with you and your teams.

# National / regional landscape

## Specialised commissioning transition

National work continues to shape future commissioning arrangements, including development of Offices for Pan ICB Commissioning (OPICs) and evolving proposals.

## NHS leadership changes

James Murray, the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has taken office. Further detail on policy direction is expected, although prevention, neighbourhood health, productivity and reducing inequalities remain consistent themes.

## London review continues

Discussions continue across the capital on specialised service sustainability, with deeper analysis and scoping underway via the London specialised services review, led by Tom Kibasi for NHS England.

"A change of Health Secretary does not mean a change of priorities."

James Murray MP, NHS ConfedExpo 2026

## Setting out priorities at NHS Confed

Speaking at NHS ConfedExpo 2026, newly appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, James Murray, emphasised that a change in ministerial leadership would not mean a change in direction for the NHS.

He reiterated the government's focus on delivering against four core priorities:

- improving elective care performance and reducing waiting times
- strengthening urgent and emergency care
- improving access to general practice
- tackling challenges in NHS dentistry.

Alongside a continued emphasis on productivity and financial discipline, the Secretary of State highlighted the importance of delivering tangible improvements for patients and maintaining momentum through a period of significant organisational change.

For South London, many of these themes resonate with existing priorities around pathway redesign, reducing inequalities, improving flow across systems, and strengthening collaboration between specialised and local services. ([Full speech online](#))

### Why this matters

As national arrangements continue to evolve, South London partners remain focussed on delivering practical improvements that improve outcomes and experience for our populations.

## Collaboration and joint leadership

Closer working between South East London and South West London ICBs under joint leadership reflects the wider national direction of travel towards shared commissioning arrangements. These developments are expected to shape future specialised commissioning across South London as responsibilities continue to transfer from NHS England to systems.

South East London ICB and South West London ICB joint appointments have been made:

- Chief Executive – Andrew Bland
- Chair – Sir Richard Douglas
- Chief Commissioning Officer and Deputy Chief Executive – Ed Waller
- Chief Medical Officer (TBC)
- Chief Nurse and Quality Officer – Elaine Clancy
- Director of Communications and Engagement – Ranjeet Kaile

# South London

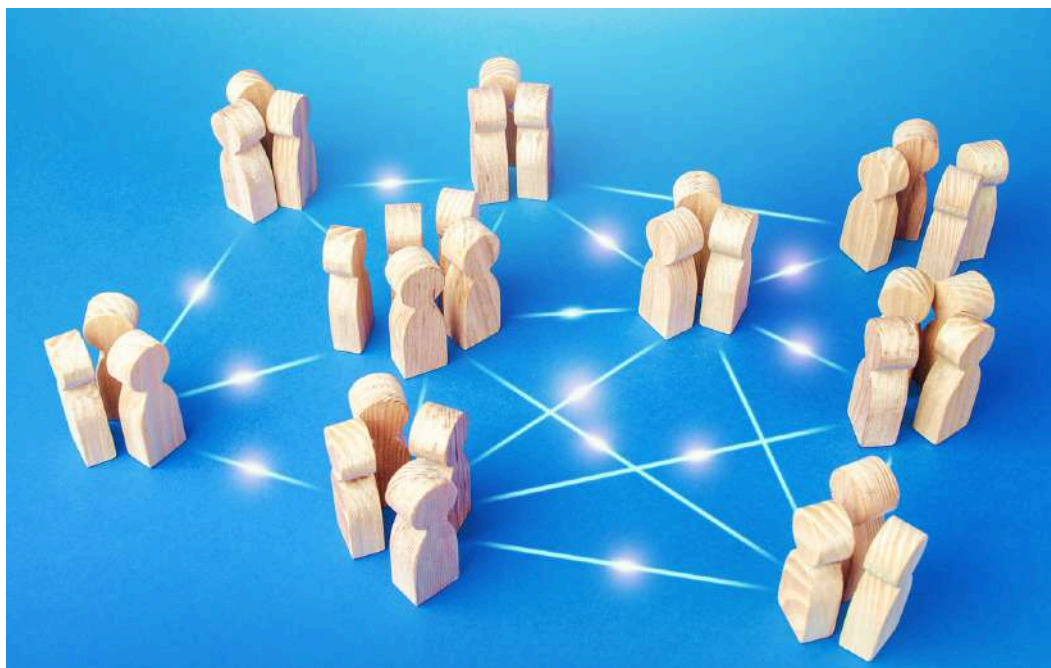
## SLOSS refocusses for 2026/27

SLOSS partners have agreed arrangements to continue the programme through March 2027, providing stability during a transitional year for specialised commissioning.

The refreshed SLOSS workplan places greater emphasis on system coordination, governance, clinical networks, targeted insight and supporting emerging commissioning arrangements, while maintaining delivery of funded transformation programmes, including blood borne viruses and sickle cell.

### Key priorities

- System coordination across specialised services
- Governance and partnership alignment
- Stakeholder engagement and communications
- Targeted insight and analytical support
- Alignment of priority clinical networks
- Support for evolving commissioning arrangements (including OPIC)



### SL Network peer support

The next South London Clinical Network Managers peer support meeting is scheduled for 30 June, 15:00-16:00.

Colleagues will discuss how peer reviews can become more meaningful, impactful and widely shared across the South London network community. Questions may be directed to [Andrea Marlow](#).

# Sustainability review

## From discussion to delivery

Two SLOSS Sustainability Review stocktake sessions were held on 8 June to review progress made since the original South London workshops in late 2025 and achieve consensus for next steps.

Bringing together providers, commissioners, clinical networks, and specialised services colleagues, the sessions were designed to test opportunities through an operational, clinical, and financial lens, helping partners identify where further work should continue, where barriers remain significant, and where alternative approaches may be needed.

Detailed summaries of the discussions are currently being finalised. If you would like further information, please email Andrea Marlow ([andrea.marlow@nhs.net](mailto:andrea.marlow@nhs.net)).

### Paediatrics

The paediatrics stocktake reviewed progress made across a range of proposals that have been developed through smaller task and finish groups involving providers, the South Thames Paediatric Network (STPN), commissioners, and SLOSS. The session aimed to identify which opportunities should continue to progress, where implementation challenges remain, and what further work may be required.

Areas discussed included:

- MRI pathway and protocol standardisation
- ENT pathways and capacity
- Elective trauma and orthopaedics
- General surgery
- Neurology
- Haematology
- Endocrinology

### Cardiovascular

The cardiovascular stocktake revisited proposals and progress with a focus on identifying where opportunities were emerging and where further refinement may be required. The session sought to support alignment between pathway redesign and wider system planning.

Areas discussed included:

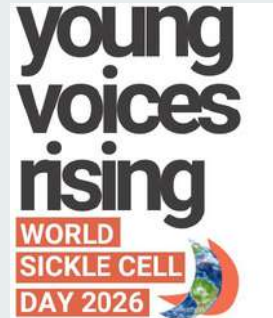
- Day case angioplasty pathways
- Varicose vein pathway standardisation
- Additional district general hospital capacity opportunities
- Collaborative procurement approaches
- Minimally invasive tricuspid valve pathways



**Across South London and beyond, World Sickle Cell Day activities are shining a spotlight on wellbeing, lived experience, education, and community support.**

## Helping young voices rise

Friday, 19 June, is **World Sickle Cell Day**, a United Nations-recognised day to raise awareness of sickle cell disorder across the world. Everyone – young people, families, schools, healthcare professionals, community groups, and supporters – is invited to help young voices rise, and to support every young person with sickle cell to own their health, be heard and live well.



## Why Young voices rising?

*Young voices rising* is about confidence, knowledge, visibility and power. It recognises that young people with sickle cell are not just future patients, future advocates or future leaders. They are living with the condition now. Their experiences matter now. Their voices need to shape care, support, research, education and public understanding now.

**This World Sickle Cell Day, let's aim to create space for young people to be seen and heard, and to remind everyone around them that good support can change lives.**

## Building workforce

### Strengthening our sickle cell workforce across London

The second London sickle cell and thalassaemia education, workforce and training workshop was held on 5 June, bringing together professionals from across adult and paediatric services to strengthen collaboration and shape future workforce development.

Nurses, educators, pharmacists, dietitians and social prescribers explored knowledge gaps in sickle cell care, shared learning, and identified practical actions to improve education and training across London.

Led by London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust through the London Sickle Cell Improvement Programme, with support from SLOSS and the West London Haemoglobinopathy Coordinating Centre, the workshops are helping build a more confident, connected and sustainable workforce for the future.

*A final third session will be held virtually later this year. Questions may be directed to [Donna Wallace](#).*



## Building confidence

### Find your float

In partnership with the Black Swimming Association, these sessions aim to build water confidence, promote wellbeing and improve access to swimming in a safe and supportive environment.



### Pill school

Helping children and young people develop confidence in taking their medication through personalised, pharmacist-led support that makes treatment routines less daunting and more manageable.

### Nutrition and gentle physical activity

A developing programme focused on practical lifestyle support, encouraging participants to explore movement, nutrition and self-care in ways that work for them.

## Building community

### Community picnic

Families, clinicians and community organisations will once again come together to celebrate resilience, strengthen relationships and share information about local support and services.



### Men's mindful movement

A dedicated space for men living with sickle cell disorder to connect through gentle movement, mindfulness and conversation, recognising the importance of emotional wellbeing alongside physical health.

### Red Cell Celebration Day

St George's Hospital will host its annual Red Cell Celebration Day on Thursday, 18 June, bringing together patients, families, staff and community organisations for an afternoon of speakers, refreshments and activities. The event celebrates the strength of the sickle cell and thalassaemia community while promoting connection and support.



## Building understanding

### Telling it loud

South West London's new podcast series uses lived experience to challenge misconceptions and increase understanding of sickle cell disorder through honest conversations about health, identity, relationships and everyday life.

Developed with patients, clinicians and community partners, the series aims to reduce stigma, amplify voices and help more people understand the realities of living with sickle cell.



### Voices of resilience

To mark World Sickle Cell Day, the West London Haemoglobinopathy Coordinating Centre is hosting Voices of Resilience, a hybrid awareness event from Camden Town Hall. Bringing together people living with sickle cell, healthcare professionals and community partners, the event aims to raise awareness, inspire change and highlight the importance of earlier diagnosis, education and equitable care.

Questions may be directed to [Andrea Marlow](#) or [Ciara Martin](#).

# Recognition and awards



## South London programmes recognised nationally

### HSJ Patient Safety Award

The South East London HIV re-engagement programme has been shortlisted in two categories:

- Quality Improvement Initiative of the Year
- Improving Safety and Outcomes for Minority Ethnic Communities

recognising its work reducing avoidable harm by reconnecting people living with HIV back into specialist care.



### Multimorbidity in the spotlight

Emerging findings from the South East London Multimorbidity Model of Care (MMMoC) were shared with the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP), showcasing South London's work to evaluate and strengthen integrated care for people with multiple long term conditions. The Phase II evaluation will be published shortly.



### Sickle cell nutrition recognised nationally

The first-ever chapter on *Sickle cell and other haemoglobinopathies* has been published in the 7th edition of the Manual of Dietetic Practice. Co-authored by Dr Claudine Matthews, it helps strengthen the evidence base for nutritional care in sickle cell and thalassaemia.

### SEL Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Awards

The South East London Enhanced Community Sickle Cell Pilot has been shortlisted in the *Community impact* category at the 2026 SEL EDI Awards, recognising the collaborative efforts of partners across South East London to improve support and outcomes for people living with sickle cell disorder.

The SEL enhanced community sickle cell programme was also accepted for poster presentation at the 66th British Society for Haematology Annual Scientific Meeting.



# South London transformation

## Blood borne viruses: From diagnosis to engagement

### Learning from ED opt out testing:

*What happens after a positive test?*

On 1 July, colleagues from across South London will come together to share lessons from the emergency department opt out testing programme, exploring how HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C testing is changing practice across the system.

The event will move beyond activity figures to focus on what happens next: identifying people who would otherwise remain undiagnosed, re-engaging those lost to care, tackling implementation challenges, and sharing real-world cases from frontline teams. Speakers from HIV, hepatitis and emergency medicine will discuss what's working, where barriers remain, and how services can continue to evolve together.

The programme also highlights the growing importance of collaboration across organisational boundaries, bringing clinicians, commissioners, and operational teams together to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities through earlier diagnosis and treatment.

[Register online](#)

### A new voice for hepatitis B peer support

The 1 July event will also hear from the Chief Executive of [Hepatitis B Companion](#), the UK's first and only dedicated hepatitis B charity, which achieved registered charity status in late 2025.

Peer support for people living with hepatitis B remains a relatively new area of development. The session offers an opportunity to explore how lived experience, advocacy and community-based support can complement clinical pathways and strengthen engagement for people who have often experienced isolation, stigma or limited access to tailored support.

### Preventing gaps in care

Following METRO Charity's operational closure on 31 March, SLOSS worked rapidly with South London partners to avoid disruption to HIV peer support services, helping to ensure people continued to access support during a period of significant change.

Working with South East London and South West London ICBs, SLOSS identified an interim arrangement with Terrence Higgins Trust, enabling service continuity whilst simultaneously simplifying multiple contracts into a single South London agreement.

What happens when BBV testing moves into the emergency department?

### South London ED BBV opt out testing

## Learn and share | 2026 event

Real-world impact.  
Missed diagnoses found.  
Patients re-engaged.

**Got a case, challenge or insight to share?**

Be part of the session! Share your experience.  
<https://forms.office.com/EWZb7Y-0D8307A>

What's working – and where we're still missing people.

#### Why attend

- See what ED opt-out testing is actually delivering
- Understand how patients are being found and re-engaged
- Hear frontline insight from HIV, HBV, HCV and ED teams
- Share challenges and shape what happens next

📅 Wednesday, 1 July 2026  
🕒 8:30 - 13:00  
📍 Windsor Walk Lecture Theatre  
King's College Hospital

**Secure your free place now**

**For**

- HIV / hepatitis teams
- ED clinicians and nurses
- Commissioners and programme leads
- Anyone working in BBV across South London

08:30–13:00

Windsor Walk Lecture Theatre, King's College Hospital  
*Refreshments and lunch provided*

### Zero HIV Stigma Day - 21 July

This day serves as a critical reminder of the importance of fostering acceptance, reducing discrimination, and ensuring that fear and stigma do not act as barriers to HIV testing, treatment, or care.



# South London transformation

## Blood borne viruses: From diagnosis to engagement

### Extending BBV testing into primary care

Building on the success of emergency department testing, South East London is preparing to deliver one of the first large scale, opt out BBV testing initiative of its kind in primary care.

To coincide with World Hepatitis Day on 28 July, HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C testing will be incorporated into selected routine blood tests requested through primary care, supporting earlier diagnosis and normalising BBV testing in everyday clinical practice.

A dedicated webinar for general practice teams will take place on 1 July to support implementation. The initiative aims to identify people who remain undiagnosed or disengaged from care, while maintaining clear opt-out arrangements and established follow up pathways.

If you have any questions, please contact Deanna Gouros, Project Manager, [deanna.gouros@nhs.net](mailto:deanna.gouros@nhs.net).



### **World Hepatitis Day - 28 July**

Dedicated to raising global awareness of viral hepatitis and encouraging prevention, testing, and treatment. This year's campaign will highlight the urgent need to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat.

**GILEAD** This project has been supported with an educational grant via the Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme.

**Routine HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing**

Coming to South East London GP practices

**28 July**  
World Hepatitis Day

On 28 July, routine HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening in SE London Primary Care

Your results are confidential

If you do not wish to be tested, please let your clinician know

Early diagnosis saves lives

Logos: NHS King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, synnovis, and three test tubes (HIV TEST, HEP B TEST, HEP C TEST).

SEL Primary Care Blood-Borne Virus Opt-Out Testing Day (28 July)

**GP Information & Training Webinar**

Wednesday, 1 July 2026  
18:30 - 19:30

Free online session for GPs and Primary Care teams

**REGISTER NOW**  
Click this banner to register

Logos: NHS King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and three test tubes (HIV TEST, HEP B TEST, HEP C TEST).

*Click banner above to register online.*

**The healthcare landscape is complex.**

South London integrated care boards (ICBs) and specialist providers have taken the opportunity to work collaboratively to integrate specialised services and deliver an end to end pathway approach for patients.

**South London partners**

- [Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [South East London Integrated Care Board](#)
- [South West London Integrated Care Board](#)

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SLOSS is a system change catalyst, guiding specialised healthcare in South London towards a more equitable, efficient, and sustainable future.

Our values of collaboration, inclusivity, and a commitment to excellence enable us to foster strong partnerships across the system, breaking down silos and enabling seamless care delivery.

Driven by our mission to underpin specialised transformation with a robust and compelling evidence base, we provide the data, insights, and implementation expertise needed to optimise specialised care pathways, reduce inequalities, improve efficiency, and ensure value for money.

**Want to know more?**

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