**THE LETTERS TO MONITOR**

**The aim of the letters to Monitor is to support the CCG in avoiding competition and tendering for new contracts or extensions of old contracts.**

For some time we have approached Lewisham residents to sign a letter to Monitor - copy attached.  To date 3,360 Lewisham residents and 244 from out of borough have signed.  In June 2014 the first batch of 2,000 Lewisham  letters was handed in to Monitor and a disk giving details of all these  was given to Lewisham CCG.  Since then a further 1,360 letters  from Lewisham residents have been collected and these are presented to the CCG today.  For convenience we have included the previous disk so that you now have all  3,360 the Lewisham letters, albeit in different formats. The out of borough letters will be sent to Monitor.

When people gave us permission, we passed a copy of their letter to their practice. Many GPs will have seen them in the records. The wording of the letter specifically relates to that in the Health and Social Care Act.

**We have done this because we want to protect the CCG and Lewisham residents from the following risks:**

**Private or NHS provider of clinical services – it does matter.**

**The private sector:**

* needs to take a profit, so their service usually costs more to the NHS over time. A bit like PFI...
* tends to cut costs and staff expertise to make the bottom line work
* tends to fragment pathways when the whole drive in SE London is towards integration
* leaves when it cannot make a profit, making provision unstable. Some providers are now leaving the market for that reason.
* like supermarkets, will offer short term deals which drive out other providers
* is not ultimately concerned with the welfare of patients

**Competition costs. It takes time and money to tender**

* competition has not been shown to improve outcomes for patients
* estimates of the annual cost of competition to the NHS range from £1 to £10billion
* it costs the CCG time and effort to tender

**Monitor allows CCGs to avoid tendering if that can be shown to be in the patients' best interests.**

“CCGs must not act in an anti-competitive way unless they can demonstrate it is in the interests of patients.” <http://www.mills-reeve.com/files/Publication/89a67df7-81eb-481d-97ef-1930a8b7eba3/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/5416f7af-4d10-41b3-831b-1c8e8eb126f6/91947781_3.pdf>

**The Monitor letters show that many Lewisham residents do not see competition and outsourcing to be in their best interests.**

There was an enthusiastic response. We could have gathered many more letters but we are limited by our resources.

**The Monitor letters give the CCG a clear, safe opportunity to avoid tendering.**

**We urge you to avoid tendering for clinical services.**

**If you disagree with this, we would like you to explain why. We expect you to consult with the wider membership**

Thank you for discussing this.

**Dr Brian Fisher and Dr Louise Irvine**

**On behalf of the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign**