## To Councillors on the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel Tuesday, 27th September, 2016 6.30 pm

## From: the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign

## Dear Councillors

## We are writing to you as the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign to request that you exercise your scrutiny duties on the awarding of the musculo-skeletal (MSK) services contract to Circle.

**The award of the contract creates a high level of risk for the local health economy, mainly Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust.**

We have serious concerns that the process has been flawed, both morally and procedurally.

**Morally**  
There has been a serious conflict of interest notwithstanding that it was declared, that two members of the Greenwich CCG board are Circle shareholders, one of whom is married to the medical director of Circle. This conflict cannot be set aside by simply saying as at the recent Greenwich CCG meeting, that the individuals were not in the room when the decision was made.

**Procedurally**

An FOI from the Save Lewisham campaign has revealed that:

* The contract specifications, contract value and activity data on which the contract was based were so unclear that well over 100 clarification questions were submitted by the bidders, a large number of which were not answered at all or adequately.
* Numerous processes and outcomes are wholly at odds with recommendations from the National Audit Office report (July 2016) and NHS England report (April 2016), prepared in order to learn the disastrous lessons of the prime contract tender awarded to Uniting Care Partnership by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG which collapsed soon after it was awarded.
* We are aware from the FOI information that there were stark inconsistencies in scoring and inadequate answers to Lewisham and Greenwich Trust’s challenge.

**We are asking you not to endorse this contract award and to scrutinize the process further, with which we would like to engage.**

The following questions were asked and sent in by the Save Lewisham Hospital at Greenwich CCG meeting on 21 September, as follows:

**With reference to the awarding by Greenwich CCG of the MSK contract to Circle:**

1. What impact assessment was done by awarding the MSK contract to Circle, in particular the risks to the stability of the two hospitals in the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust and orthopaedic services in the A&E pathway, if the Trust is destabilised. As the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign, we are concerned because there **clearly will be** an impact on finances and clinical services at Lewisham Hospital.
2. Did the CCG take into account problems with other attempts to contract out MSK services eg at Bedford, Brighton and did you place any  importance on Circle’s past failures and track record e.g. running Hinchingbrooke Hospital?
3. How could you rate Circle's bid (with their poor track record) above that of Lewisham and Greenwich, on clinical quality with LGT's record and commitment to work together with Oxleas and local GPs? This decision must be about money not clinical service.
4. Have you discussed with other parties, eg Circle, the relation between this MSK contract and the proposed SELEOC? If so how did you describe the link to them?

These questions were not answered satisfactorily, including the key point about the impact assessment.

Best wishes

**Olivia O’Sullivan**

**Secretary Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign**