

Merton Liberal Democrats  
c/o 35 Linkway, SW20 9AT  
6 February 2017

Dr Andrew Murray  
NHS Merton CCG  
120 The Broadway,  
London  
SW19 1RH

Dear Dr Murray,

**RE: Closure of the Wilson Health Centre**

We are writing to you jointly as representatives of the Liberal Democrats in Merton with regard to the planned closure of the Wilson Health Centre in Mitcham. We attended the public meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January and, firstly, would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with residents and hear their concerns.

However, we are deeply concerned about the impact this closure will have on patients and local people in the area. We're especially worried by the loss of the walk-in centre, which many people rely on and allows patients to be treated without an appointment, 7 days a week.

Despite attending the public meeting, we feel there is still uncertainty on a number of issues and believe that without more clarity on alternative provision, this closure should not go ahead.

We have outlined a number of questions below and would be grateful for your response. We will publish the answers to help better inform local residents:

1. You outlined that there would be a new walk-in service developed on the Wilson site. Is this certain to go ahead and when will this be open for residents to use?
2. During the gap between the closure of the Wilson walk-in centre on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and the opening of the new service, you explained there would be alternative provision for residents. Can you guarantee that residents will be able to be seen by a doctor on any day they fall in during this period?
3. You spoke about improvements to remaining local GP services, many of which are already under great pressure. When will the improvement plans be published and implemented?
4. It is unclear what specific provision is going to be made for vulnerable groups that currently rely on the walk-in centre, for example, homeless people, refugees or those with chronic mental health problems. Could you clarify what safeguards will be put in place to protect vulnerable adults who may not otherwise be able to access primary healthcare?

5. At the full council meeting on 1 February, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health expressed concerns about the closure of the Wilson drop-in centre, despite having been involved with the plans to develop the new health and wellbeing centre. When did the Council first become aware of the closure and when did they raise their concerns with you or the CCG management? What concerns did they raise?
6. Many residents feel they have been ignored and the plans around the centre have been badly communicated. Which community groups have you engaged with over these plans and will you commit to improving engagement with local residents in Mitcham and across Merton in the future?

Thank you for your time in answering these questions and we look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

*Claire Mathys*

**Claire Mathys**  
**Lib Dem PPC for Mitcham and Morden**

*Carl Quilliam*

**Carl Quilliam**  
**Lib Dem PPC for Wimbledon**