

To: PCT Chief Executives
Sector Chief Executives
Trust Chief Executives
AHSCs
Foundation trust Chief Executives

Dear Colleagues,

You will have heard that Sir Richard Sykes has resigned as Chairman of NHS London with effect from 6th July. I know you will want to join me in thanking Sir Richard for his leadership over the last year and a half. It has been a privilege to work for someone with such experience and capability. I am very sorry that Richard felt unable to continue to lead the next phase of development but I respect his reasons for wanting to go now.

Inevitably Richard's departure will create uncertainty, anxiety and speculation some of which you will have seen in playing out in the media. My purpose in writing to you now is to set out how I intend to take things forward with you in the coming months and reflects much of what I said to you when we met earlier in the week.

The NHS in London has much to be proud of but also many profound and longstanding problems which it is our duty to continue to tackle. Our new Secretary of State has been clear that he understands the range and depth of problems particular to London and has set us the challenge of finding a new approach to solving them over the next two years. He expects to see far greater involvement of patients and the public in decisions about their care and wants to put primary care and especially GPs in the lead in commissioning services for their patients. We must also put far greater emphasis on the provision of transparent information about quality and safety to inform commissioning decisions and patient choice. The Secretary of State has emphasised to me that he very much wants to see change leading to improved outcomes driven by patients and their GPs rather than by any form of top down direction.

The Secretary of State's vision for the NHS encompasses new opportunities for working in partnership with local government on public health. We have good relationships in London both between PCTs and boroughs and city wide with the Mayor and we need to think about how we can make the new public health system work at both levels to tackle London's health inequalities.

Over the next few weeks I will consult widely across London to hear people's views about how we can meet the Secretary of State's challenge and as a result take forward improvement in services to our patients with ambition and pace. It is my role to continue

London Strategic Health Authority

Chair: Sir Richard Sykes

Chief Executive: Ruth Carnall CBE


to provide leadership to the NHS in London through this transitional phase and I will focus on the following key themes:

- Identifying and supporting GPs and primary care teams who will lead commissioning in the future;
- Facilitating and pressing ahead with change where there is a clear desire and commitment to do so from the public and clinicians;
- Developing better information about the quality and safety of care and making that information available publically;
- Building on the strong partnerships we have with local government and the Mayor, especially in tackling inequalities;
- Maintaining a clear focus on holding the NHS to account for performance, financial control and tackling inefficiency and management cost reductions;
- Supporting you and your teams through a difficult change programme and advising you how to make progress within your organisation;
- Working with national colleagues to deliver a smooth transition to the new system of accountability.

Please think within your organisation about how you would want us to meet the Secretary of State's challenge. I welcome, as always, your thoughts and advice on how to take this forward.

Please be assured that it is my firm intention to stay and see this change programme through with you. These are exciting but challenging times which will require exemplary leadership behaviour from us all. We have a great track record of achieving change through collaborative endeavour over the last few years. That sense of a shared mission will be just as important for us to succeed in this next phase.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ruth Carnall'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ruth' written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname 'Carnall'.

Ruth Carnall
Chief Executive