

summer 2009

members' news

The Foundation Trust Members' Newsletter

Save our rail services!

King's

By 2012 direct trains to central London from all the stations on the South London Line would be decimated.

Campaigner Eileen Conn



By lobbying your local MP, you can help save vital local rail services which bring thousands of patients, staff and visitors to the hospital each day.

The South London Line is a loop service that operates between Victoria and London Bridge via Denmark Hill. It currently provides two trains an hour between these major London terminals all day, everyday; a crucial link for people with hospital appointments, visiting relatives or going to work each day.

Impact on patients, staff and visitors

In 2007 we were told by rail authorities that our link to London Bridge would be cut to accommodate the major platform changes needed as part of the Thameslink project. At the time, we were reassured that the direct link to Victoria would be retained with a new service from Victoria to Bellingham.

This year, rail authorities announced that this new service would not be provided either. It was felt that Transport for London's East London Line Extension would be an adequate, alternative option, providing links to Clapham Junction (to change for Victoria) and trains to Peckham Rye (to change for London Bridge). This would mean extra changes for people travelling to and from Denmark Hill, extra delays to work journeys and further inconvenience for patients, staff and visitors.

Communities, services and businesses are built on effective rail links. In our case, accessing services and getting to work are important reasons for helping people decide where they receive their care or build their careers. We feel rail authorities do not always appreciate this but we understand politicians might.

Making the case

We believe this situation is unacceptable and there is a strong case to revisit the decisions behind all the proposed changes to the South London Line. We need your help to encourage the Rail Minister to work with Transport for London and Network Rail to re-examine the future of the South London Line.

Please fill out your campaign postcard and send it to your local MP.



Andy Glyn, a patient governor who chairs the Governor's Transport Working Group which works with stakeholders to influence key decision makers to provide the best means of access to King's says:

Denmark Hill is a vital transport link for King's College Hospital staff and patients who rely on the regular services that run directly to and from central London. The Governor's Transport Working Group will be helping co-ordinate members' activity on this issue, and I urge you all to write to your local MP on the postcard enclosed to let them know your views on the proposed changes to our rail services.

Denmark Hill Station services

What you helped to achieve

In 2007 we asked you to support our campaign to get lifts installed at Denmark Hill Station. You responded in droves and sent postcards to your local MPs, asking them to write to the Rail Minister.

The Chairman's message



As you can read in this issue of Members' News, we are asking once again, for you to support the campaign to save our local rail services. The arguments outlined demonstrate the strength of feeling at King's about this issue and the importance of existing rail services that bring thousands of patients, carers, visitors and staff to and from King's.

One of the advantages of being a Foundation Trust is that it allows us to influence policymakers by giving you the power to make a difference for your hospital. We have already seen the impact this has had with the millions in investment planned for Denmark Hill Station.

I know that there is significant support for this campaign among all our local MPs, London Assembly Members and Councillors from all political parties. We are hopeful that through our joint efforts we can get the Secretary of State for Transport to see our viewpoint and realise that in this part of London, services like the South London Line are vital for our patients, carers, visitors and staff.

King's Health Partners is our Academic Health Sciences Centre and you will have read in recent editions of Members' News about how we have joined forces with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, South London the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London (University). King's Health Partners brings together 25,000 members of staff and 15,000 students. It will deliver healthcare for 2 million people in South East London alone. The South London Line facilitates our collaboration. It is a key part of our business planning and its removal would have a big impact on our ability to work together effectively to enable us to provide the best service for our patients.

Please fill out the enclosed postcard and send it to your local MP today. Your support is very much appreciated.

Michael Parker, Chairman

As a result of the action you took, and with the help of local politicians, the Minister saw how important our case was and agreed to make the station a priority as part of a nationwide initiative called Access for All. Since then, we have been working hard with Network Rail to make the Minister's commitment a reality. We are delighted to report that plans were recently submitted to Southwark Council's planning department for approval, and we are hopeful that work will begin later this year.

The station has also been included in another nationwide initiative which will see millions invested in Denmark Hill to build a new footbridge, install lifts from each platform, construct a new access ramp, linking the station to the new footbridge and provide a new, accessible entrance to the station.

Millions invested

This is another reason why we are campaigning to retain our rail services. Cutting direct links to London Bridge and Victoria seems counter to the investment going into the station. The upgrades planned for the station are good opportunities to enhance our direct links to London terminals and we see no reason why Transport for London cannot run the new orbital East London Line service alongside the excellent, existing radial links to central London.

The installation of lifts and overhaul of other facilities will allow us to promote Denmark Hill as an alternative option to getting to King's by car. We plan to encourage more patients, where possible, to take the train to the hospital following the installation of the lifts. This will ease traffic congestion and free up space for those who really need to come by car.



King's members and local groups campaigning outside Denmark Hill Station



A member's view – we all need to get involved

Eileen Conn is a Peckham resident, King's Foundation Trust member, and founder and co-ordinator of the Southwark Rail Users Group. She was recently awarded the MBE for services to the community.

"Local rail user groups – Southwark Rail Users' Group and Clapham Transport Users' Group – were shocked recently to discover a secret deal between Transport for London and the Department for Transport to axe another crucial train service through Denmark Hill – the planned Victoria-Bellingham service. London Travel Watch (LTW) the official London transport watchdog called it 'deceitful'.

"This new service was offered last year to 'replace' the direct service to London Bridge which is planned to be cut in 2012. The upshot of all this is that by 2012 direct trains to central London from all the stations on the South London Line would be decimated. Denmark Hill would be left with no direct trains to and from London Bridge, only two an hour to Victoria during the day with none in the early morning or in the evening, and two trains an hour to Blackfriars.

"This just doesn't make any sense when Denmark Hill station has so recently succeeded in winning millions in investment to improve access at the station. Already many thousands of patients, staff and visitors rely on the direct services between Denmark Hill and London Bridge and Victoria, and that will continue to grow.

"The local rail user groups have come together with all the hospitals affected including Kings, other local employers, all local elected representatives and cross-party representatives, to form the campaign to Save Our South London Line. Further information on the issues can be seen at the petition website."

The campaign urges rail users to:

- sign the web petition at <http://tinyurl.com/SouthLondonLine>
- email your views to Lord Adonis (the Rail Minister) andrew.adonis@dft.gsi.gov.uk
- email your views to Boris Johnson mayor@london.gov.uk
- join online Facebook group **Save the South London Line between Victoria and London Bridge**

For information about the effect on other stations and the Southwark Rail Users Group email SRUG@bellenden.net

King's needs your help

King's has begun a Trust-wide project to identify the values we all share – the values that unite and motivate us to do the best we can for our patients and their loved ones.

Our aim is to develop a set of values that are unique to us and embody what is so special about King's. These values will become a foundation upon which we will base our recruitment, induction, appraisal and training.

During May and June, staff in all roles and levels across the Trust have been providing their views; so far, more than 200 have participated in focus groups to identify the values that unite and motivate them. We're getting a good picture – but we want to know more. We want to know what you think.

On July 15 at lunchtime, and July 21 in the evening, we will be holding two special events designed especially for those who have received care at King's. We want to know details about your experience – both the good and the not-so-good.

We need 2½ hours of your time to take part in a series of one to one discussions with individual members of staff so that you can both gain a greater understanding of each other's concerns and priorities. Refreshments will be provided and we will reimburse any reasonable travel expenses.



These are exciting times for King's, and we are making lots of plans for the future. Our first consideration, though, is the quality of the service we can give to our patients, and we really do need your help to do this. I would encourage you to take part in the July events to tell us about your time as a patient at King's. We would like to use your experiences to help us be clear about the behaviours and values that are important to you.

Ann Mullins, a Public Governor and patient at King's

If you're interested and available, please contact Susan Cozzolino at the King's Change Team on **020 3299 4149** or **susan.cozzolino@kch.nhs.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you.

King's Health Partners accredited

Our Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC), King's Health Partners, has received formal accreditation from the Department of Health as one of the UK's AHSCs.

We are now one of just five AHSCs which have been approved in the UK after a thorough assessment by an international expert panel appointed by the Department of Health. King's Health Partners is made up of ourselves, King's College London and Guys and St Thomas' and South London and the Maudsley Foundation Trusts.

Professor Robert Lechler, Director of King's Health Partners said:

"Our achievement in becoming one of the UK's first AHSCs is testament to the comprehensive range of world class expertise that exists across our partner organisations.

"The challenge ahead is to make full use of our potential to revolutionise the way that healthcare is designed and delivered, both for the people we serve locally and the wider population."

A new visual identity has now been developed for King's Health Partners. King's will maintain its own branding for all our services, but all our letters and literature in the future will include a reference to our partnership in the AHSC, which also now has its own website at

www.kingshealthpartners.org.uk

We have made significant progress in recent months with our plans to align clinical services, research and training more closely so that patients can benefit from academic research into new treatments and techniques much earlier. Our aim is to develop an AHSC that is truly world class.



Hot off the press...

King's continues to be a source of inspiration for newspapers and television journalists alike. Read on to find out more about what has been hitting the headlines over the last few months.

MARCH

The Daily Telegraph reported on news that a young King's patient had become the first person in Britain to receive organ donations from both her parents. Jasmine Mirza received a donor kidney from her mother four years after receiving a new liver from her

father in surgery carried out at King's.

They also carried a story about King's patient Jasmina Allen, who has finally been given the all clear after recovering from ten brain and spine tumours. In the article, Jasmina's mother praised the excellent treatment her daughter received at King's, in particular from Consultant Surgeon, Mr Sanj Bassi who she described as 'golden-hands'.

APRIL

The Guardian reported that King's has become the first hospital in the country to

trial the use of three-dimensional x-ray technology for breast cancer screening and diagnosis, helping to improve accuracy and reduce the number of false positives and negative results associated with regular scanning.

The Daily Telegraph

reported that King's cardiac surgeon Mr Olaf Wendler, had performed a UK first at King's replacing an existing artificial heart valve without the need for open heart surgery.

MAY

Consultant Obstetrician, Professor Kypros Nicolaides

and his team at King's were the subject of a **Channel 4** documentary 'Emergency in the Womb' which followed the emotional stories of women needing surgery on their unborn twins.

Also on **Channel 4**, King's neurosurgeons Nick Thomas and Chris Chandler took part in a ground breaking new series, The Operation: Surgery Live, which saw Nick removing a pituitary gland at King's while Chris described events to a live audience at The Wellcome Collection and to an even bigger audience on Channel 4.



Prime Minister Gordon Brown chatted to nurses on Lonsdale Ward when he visited King's in March to launch the Government's Nursing and Midwifery Commission. The Prime Minister learned about how our ward staff are using visual management systems to help avoid problems such as delayed discharges; King's was chosen for the visit thanks to our strong reputation for nursing leadership.

Rays of Sunshine at King's



From left to right: Chief Executive Tim Smart, Director of Paediatric Liver Professor Giordina Mieli-Vergani and Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist Professor Anil Dhawan open the new ward

The new ward with more beds and updated equipment will allow our dedicated doctors and nurses to provide even better care in this truly world-class liver unit.

Bruce Purgavie,
Chair of the King's Starfish charitable appeal

The month of March brought sunshine into the lives of parents and children at King's with the opening of the new £1.8 million Rays of Sunshine Ward, funded by the families of patients, the Trust and a major grant of £500,000 from Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity.

Despite its reputation as the world's leading facility for research and treatment, the King's paediatric liver unit, formerly Mountbatten Ward, had become overcrowded and generally run down. With no facilities to accommodate parents overnight or private areas for counselling, the unit was in desperate need of refurbishment.

"We were head and shoulders above anyone else in patient success rates but miles behind any North American hospital in our provision of an aesthetic environment and this was bad because it caused parents to doubt us."

Professor Anil Dhawan, Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist and Deputy Director of Liver Services.

In 2004 The King's Starfish Appeal was set up to raise £1 million towards the refurbishment of the paediatric liver centre at King's. As well as asking patients and relatives to donate, the Starfish Appeal encouraged people to get out in their communities and actively fundraise.

Professor Dhawan said:

"We think this is the first time hospital patients and their relatives have gone out and raised money in this way. People have abseiled down buildings, swum across freezing cold seas and scaled mountains to raise money for the appeal. The money raised has contributed significantly towards the development of the paediatric liver centre at King's."

Because many patients and their families will have to stay on the ward for a number of weeks, each bed has a television and internet access so children can stay in touch with their friends and relatives. The ward also has a playroom for younger children. It will be a home from home for newborns and children aged up to 16 undergoing treatment for a wide range of liver-associated illnesses, including biliary atresia, hepatitis and cystic fibrosis (which can cause liver-related problems).

Every year, as many as 60 children coming to the Rays of Sunshine Ward will also go on to have liver transplants, including living related (where they receive part of a healthy parent or relatives' liver), split liver (where a donated organ benefits more than one patient) and single liver donor transplants.



The newly refurbished play area

King's Charity provides vital funding to projects, large and small

Rays of Sunshine is just one of the many projects being funded by King's College Hospital Charity, whose fundraising efforts are vital in helping to support the good work of King's.

The Charity provides grants for projects where hospital staff have already explored other available areas of funding. Without the support of King's Charity, the following projects would not have been possible.

South East London Bowel Cancer Screening Service

Support from the King's Charity is enabling further research within the local community to encourage greater uptake of screening services and ultimately save more lives.

Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Quality of Life

Research Programme which will be used to tailor individual treatments and improve outcomes for patients.

Consultant Respiratory Physician, Dr Surinder Birring is leading the research programme, and commented on the support of the Charity's Small Grants Fund:

"It is incredibly difficult to fund this type of research through the usual routes, so this really was very important for our patient's well-being. Funding for frontline services rather than purely for laboratory research is the most important factor."

These projects were funded through the King's Charity's Small Grants Trust. In 2008 alone it provided over £500,000 in funding to 15 projects, and applications for grants in that year totalled £1.5m.

Your support will allow us to fund more projects, both large and small. For more information on how you can help, visit www.kch.nhs.uk/fundraising or call **020 3299 3456**.

King's excellent financial results

King's has had its most successful financial year ever, reporting a surplus of £17.5 million.

In consultation with your Governors, we are currently refining a financial and estates strategy to reinvest this surplus to improve the site and buildings at Denmark Hill and provide modern, state of the art facilities and equipment. Over the next few years our priorities for investment are:

- Improvements to the Emergency Department
- Developments to support an increase in major trauma and stroke patients

- A new clinical research facility which will help us carry out a wide range of clinical studies in both existing patients and healthy volunteers, with a particular focus on local health priorities
- Improvements to our world-renowned fetal medicine service
- The establishment of an academic neurosciences centre at Denmark Hill

More information on the end of year results will be contained within our Summary Annual Review which will be sent to all members with the next issue of Members' News.

Dates for your diary



King's Open Day

Sunday 5 July from 11am to 3.30pm
King's College Hospital

On Sunday 5 July, King's is opening its doors once again to the public for its seventh annual Open Day. The aim of the day is to introduce King's to the community, giving people the chance to learn more about their local hospital and to find out

about the fantastic work taking place on their doorstep, as well as meeting our staff and having an enjoyable day out. There will be interactive areas for a number of departments within the hospital all of which will be informative, educational and most of all fun! A full list of departments and further details on this year's activities is available on www.kch.nhs.uk

King's Members' Seminars

1pm Wednesday
30 September
MAJOR TRAUMA

King's is bidding to be one of the major trauma centres for London. Dr Tj Lasoye, Clinical Lead for King's Emergency Department, will talk about major trauma and how we treat seriously injured patients in our Emergency Department.

1pm Wednesday
28 October
HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS AND HOW WE CONTROL THEM

Bill Houston, Senior Infection Control Nurse at King's will talk about hospital acquired infections such as MRSA and C diff and how we work to prevent infections here at King's.

1pm Tuesday
17 November
GENETICS AND HEART DISEASE

Tootie Bueser, British Heart Foundation Cardiac Genetic Nurse will talk about inherited heart conditions.

1pm Monday
7 December
ALLERGIES

Dorothea Grosse-Kreul, Senior Specialist Nurse for Clinical Immunology & Allergy will talk about immuno-deficient and allergic diseases treated at King's. These include food allergies, anaphylaxis and hay fever.

All seminars will take place in the Claire Vaughan Suite, Weston Education Centre, King's College Hospital.

Any questions?

If you have any queries about your membership or would like any further information about King's, or the meetings listed here, please do let our Foundation Trust Team know on **020 3299 4939** or email members@kch.nhs.uk