



Guy's and St Thomas'
NHS Foundation Trust

Ruman Kallar
Healthwatch Southwark

Sent by email:
ruman@communitysouthwark.org

Chief Nurse's Office
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
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Westminster Bridge Road
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Friday, 31 January 2025

Dear Ruman,

Thank you for your email dated 9 January, sharing the report titled '*Towards Inclusive Healthcare: Rethinking Mental Health Services for Black African and Caribbean Communities*' from Healthwatch Southwark.

We have reviewed the report with our Chief Nurse, the Director of Nursing for Safeguarding Adults, Vulnerable Adults & Patient Experience, and the Trust Lead for Mental Health.

After careful consideration, we would like to clarify that the recommendations in the report are not directly relevant to Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, as we are not commissioned to provide mental health services.

While the Trust has a small, central mental health nursing team that supports individuals requiring mental health assistance during their hospital stay—such as those attending the Emergency Department in mental health crises or those admitted for care unrelated to mental health—please note that we do not provide dedicated mental health services. This support is integrated into our broader hospital care, ensuring that mental health service users have access to necessary assessments that can assist them during their admission, when required.

We continue to work closely with partners through our involvement in the South East London Integrated Care System, Lambeth Alliance, and King's Health Partners. However, the specific recommendations in the report, including the implementation of the Patient Carer Race Equality Framework, concern mental health services, with South London and the Maudsley being the local NHS provider for Southwark residents. Consequently, the Trust is unable to offer further comment on the report at this time. We will, however, be happy to contribute to ongoing discussions through these partnerships as needed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact colleagues in our Patient and Public Engagement Team.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate Healthwatch Southwark's continued dedication and valuable insights in supporting the improvement of care for our local communities.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ciara Mackay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Ciara Mackay
Director of Nursing, Safeguarding Adults, Vulnerable Adults & Patient Experience
Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust