

From: Joanna Killian

Sent: 04 May 2020 11:29

To: ELKELES, Daniel (EPSOM AND ST HELIER UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST); TAIT, Matthew (NHS SURREY DOWNS CCG)

Subject: Improving Healthcare Together- SCC views

Dear Daniel, Matthew,

Improving Healthcare Together

Following the recent public consultation, which a wide range of our residents, Members and organisations will have responded to, I wanted to write to outline the views of Surrey County Council's services.

This focuses on the preferred option of a new hospital site at Sutton but it is important to note that the County Council's Cabinet hasn't agreed a formal position at this time. The Council will continue to engage in this process through the South West London and Surrey Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as through our own Adult and Health Select Committee. I understand the Joint Committee will be meeting in June to consider this programme and the County Council will respond as appropriate through these formal channels.

You will also have the feedback from the Members' seminar held at County Hall during the consultation where county councillors providing views on a range of issues which I am sure you have already taken into account.

Overall, we welcome the opportunities presented by having a new hospital and the additional investment this brings to all three local sites. It is recognised that under the preferred option, 85% of services would remain at Epsom and St Helier and with the planned investment in those sites, there is an opportunity to improve the services and outcomes for our residents. There are also key benefits for residents in creating an emergency hospital in the way suggested.

As you know, it is vital that health and social care work closely together and that we integrate our service offer for residents wherever possible to ensure the best outcomes. This can be complex, particularly where a hospital is working across multiple local authority areas as would be the case here. To make this work effectively, it would be vital to have a discharge to assess model in place and work closely with the local authorities to ensure this was fit for purpose.

If we did have discharge to assess, we would then be assessing in our own area with staff in the local community doing the assessments. This could impact on travel but agile working would be promoted to mitigate this, with a small team based in the hospital for very complex situations. An alternative could be to have a host council arranging discharge across a number of systems and we would be open to discussing either model.

The key area where there is an impact on the community is maternity with Hospital Births proposed to be the specialist trust. This will be a concern for some of our residents, particularly those in the south of the catchment area and we would encourage active engagement to continue with those communities to ensure that any impact is mitigated and residents supported to access the care they need.

The County Council is also responsible for transport and is very committed to promoting the green agenda, having declared a climate emergency in 2019. At the end of April, the

Cabinet approved an ambitious climate change strategy, which includes a target of 60% emissions reduction in the Transport sector by 2035 as a minimum.

The time and cost of transport will be key for friends and family visiting residents in the new hospital. It will also be important for patients after discharge for follow up appointments if these would need to take place at Sutton Hospital site.

The existing public transport to Sutton Hospital from large parts of Surrey can be challenging. The nearest train station is Belmont, Sutton is further away with bus services and other connections from Surrey limited.

We recognise that significant work has been done to model travel across the catchment area and the rationale for Sutton as part of this. However, this looks to be predominantly car-based and it's unclear as to whether public transport has been assessed or considered for the future.

The feedback from local councillors suggests people are concerned about travel times to hospitals, the cost of transport, parking, and other issues to do with access, especially for older people, people living with major life challenges and those who live on a low income or have trouble getting out and about. It will be important to ensure these issues are picked up and considered in more detail as part of any final decision-making process.

In line with the Greener NHS agenda, I hope that this programme could be an exemplar of the green initiative in terms of new buildings and access (by public transport, cycling and walking) and we would be happy to work with you (and Transport for London) to consider how we may collectively improve public transport to Sutton Hospital if that is the chosen site.

Overall, the Improving Healthcare Together Programme presents a great opportunity to invest in all three sites within the Trust and we support the overall ambition. It will, however, be important to ensure we don't leave anyone behind and that wherever the new hospital is, we support residents to access the care they need whilst contributing positively to the need to reduce carbon emissions. In line with the priorities within Surrey's health and wellbeing strategy and our partnership through Surrey Heartlands ICS, the County Council remains committed to working with you on this and look forward to continuing these discussions over the summer.

Yours sincerely
Joanna Killian

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