



COUNCILLOR SARAH RICHARDSON
Chairman, Adult Services and Health Policy & Scrutiny Committee

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31st July 2012

Dear Dr Spencer,

'Shaping a healthier future' consultation

I am writing to you on behalf of the Adult Services and Health Policy & Scrutiny Committee at Westminster City Council.

We understand that the reconfiguration of hospital services in North West London aims to deliver the best possible healthcare to patients and the public given that health needs are changing. There are a number of challenges facing the health service including population change, clinical change (not being able to get to see GPs and higher than average A&E attendances), issues with the quality of estates and financial challenges. As such, we realise that a reconfiguration of this magnitude is necessary in order to meet these emerging serious challenges.

We would like to put on record our endorsement, in principle, of the clinicians' preferred recommendation of a reconfiguration of hospitals in North West London. The preferred option includes retaining, supporting and developing major hospital sites at St Mary's Hospital, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, West Middlesex Hospital, Northwick Park and Hillingdon Hospital. Our Scrutiny Committee has visited the first two sites which are most frequently used by Westminster residents. We consider it exceptionally important that major services are easily accessible, continually staffed and available 24/7 for residents and visitors to Central London. We recognise the fundamental importance of two world class hospitals such as St Mary's and Chelsea and Westminster providing these acute services.

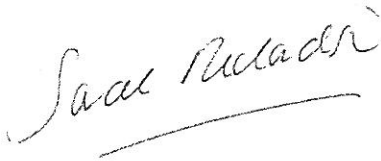
We will be responding to the consultation with a full reply, including an assessment of the move of Western Eye Hospital, before the end of the consultation period. However, we appreciate that these changes, if implemented, would mean a reduction in some acute services within one of our neighbouring, partner Boroughs. As such we would appreciate assurances that NHS NWL and Imperial will cooperate fully with our neighbouring Borough to mitigate the potential disruption that these changes may create.

Our endorsement is conditional on a number of key requirements for NHS North West London to satisfy, including:

- improving access for Westminster residents at GPs and other local services so patients can be seen more quickly and at a time that is convenient to them;
- delivering co-ordinated care plans for people, preventing deterioration in health and reducing admissions to hospital, alongside encouraging the improvement of discharge processes at acute facilities;
- reducing complications and poor outcomes for people with long-term conditions by providing more specialist services in the community.
- supporting more people to take control of their own health conditions;
- helping carers to support those with health and social care needs;
- sharing information across healthcare providers, in order to reduce errors and avoid patients having to give the same information many times;

We look forward to further engagement with NHS North West London as the consultation continues. We also remain committed to ongoing scrutiny to ensure that our residents and visitors will continue to receive health services of the highest quality if approval is given to implement this fundamental shift in healthcare provision.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Sarah Richardson
Chairman, Adult Services and Health Policy & Scrutiny Committee

cc: **Cllr Rachael Robathan**, Cabinet Member for Adults,
Cllr Dr Sheila D'Souza, Deputy Cabinet Member for Health
Sir Richard Sykes, Chair, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Mark Davies, Chief Executive, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Professor Sir Christopher Edwards,
Chairman, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Mike Anderson,
Acting Chief Executive & Medical Director, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS FT
Jeff Zitron, Chair, NHS North West London
Dr Anne Rainsberry, Chief Executive, NHS North West London
Dr Ruth O'Hare, Central London Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Naomi Katz, West London Clinical Commissioning Group