

APPENDIX ONE:

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Review: Engagement with London population

1. Introduction

Patient, public and stakeholder engagement to identify the issues and develop solutions to the challenges at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre began at the start of the review in 2019 and has continued throughout.

This paper outlines a summary of the public facing engagement that has taken place in London boroughs during that time.

2. Patient and public engagement:

During the first phase of the programme, an independent company ran a survey and several face to face engagement events.

- 50% of the face to face workshops took place in North West London
- At least 27% of those completing the survey were from NWL based on their selection of closest A&E to where they live

The full report can be found here: <https://mvccreview.nhs.uk/6506/widgets/19100/documents/7948>

Following a pause of the review programme to enable clinical and operational teams to focus on responding to COVID-19, the programme entered Phase 2 – the development of options. October 2020 – April 2021.

This included a range of online focus groups and workshops covering topics including clinical model and estates, radiotherapy and cancer specific pathways. In addition, there were a number of discussions with individuals and attendance at established groups, as well as meetings with Health Scrutiny Chairs and Healthwatch organisations. These have included discussions with the Chair of Northwood Resident's Association and a meeting with a Harrow Somali Women's Group.

Of 73 attendances at focus groups to help develop proposals, approximately 42% of participants declared they were from NWL, with Harrow having the largest proportion.

- The areas of Harrow and Hillingdon are relatively well represented, but there has been little engagement from Brent and Ealing.

Following this, locality events were held (online due to Covid concerns) to understand the impact of the proposals on people living in different areas. Eight of these were specific to the North London population.

Once a preferred proposal had been identified and tested, feedback from patients and the public was used to identify themes for the next series of workshops. These included transport and access, care closer to home, learning disabilities, disabled access and experience, and also some geographical ones, including one for residents of North Central London who had been less likely to attend events than those from North West London. In addition to established communication methods and publication through organisations and groups, a targeted social media campaign was used to communicate information about the locality events, particularly targeting residents of North Central London.

More than 100 face to face and online focus groups were held in total.

- The majority of these were either general events or themed and not specifically targeted at one population rather than another. However, 13 events have been held exclusively for London patients and residents over the course of the review.

Regular information, including updates following Programme Board meetings, and information about how to get involved, is distributed to a network of almost 1,000 stakeholders. This includes communications teams in ICBs, providers, Healthwatch, and Local Authorities within the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre catchment, who use their own networks to further disseminate the information. It also includes all MPs within the catchment (originally 48, now 44 following boundary changes).

A dedicated, interactive MVCC review website was launched in January 2021. The website has received 28,389 visits and has 239 people have registered with the site, 38% of whom have registered with a London postcode. The interactive style of the site enables people to post ideas, stories and questions, amongst other activity.

A number of meetings have been held with the Chair of the Northwood Residents' Association who have a track record for campaigning. Updates on the proposals for Mount Vernon Cancer Centre have been included in each of the Northwood Residents' Association newsletters for the past few years, and the chair recently reported that they felt well engaged with and ready for the change.

3. Patient Reference Group

A Patient Reference Group has been meeting regularly since early in the review to review the case for change, help set criteria and develop proposals. Membership is proportionate to the volume of patients treated at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre from each area and members are nominated via Healthwatch. Hillingdon and Harrow have very active members and one of the Hillingdon members accompanied the Health Overview and Scrutiny Chairs on their visit to the cancer centre in November 2024.

4. Healthwatch

Healthwatch Hillingdon:

- Healthwatch Hillingdon was a member of the communications and engagement group throughout the development of proposals and early engagement. This group was set up at the start of the programme to advise on and assist with the communications and engagement planning and activity linked to the programme.
- Healthwatch Hillingdon has had a place on the programme board since the beginning of the programme and accompanied the Independent Clinical Review team for their visit. Members were also part of the panel appointing UCLH as preferred provider.
- Nominated three representatives to the Patient Reference Group

Healthwatch Harrow:

- Has become engaged since 2020 and participated in a Healthwatch workshop (8th October 2020) to help develop proposals. Representatives have also attended some of the focus groups.
- Nominated two patient representatives to the Patient Reference Group
- Has helped with access to some local communities to undertake some bespoke work, for example with the Somalian community.

Healthwatch Brent and Healthwatch Ealing were invited to the 2020 workshop to develop proposals. They have been regularly provided with information about public facing events with a request to distribute to appropriate patient groups. They were asked to nominate a patient representative to the Patient Reference Group but were unable to provide a representative.

Healthwatch Central West London (Kensington and Chelsea) participated in the Healthwatch workshop and has had patient representation at some events.

Healthwatch Hammersmith and Fulham, Healthwatch Haringey, and Healthwatch Hounslow are among other Healthwatch organisations invited to the workshop and provided with information about the events with a request to distribute to appropriate patient groups.

All NW London Healthwatch organisations receive regular updates about the programme.

5. Health Scrutiny

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny

The Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (MVCC JHOSC) comprises representatives from the following councils: Bedford, Brent, Buckinghamshire, Central Bedfordshire, Ealing, Harrow, Hertfordshire, Hillingdon, Luton and Slough. It is tasked with reviewing and scrutinising the consultation proposals and consultation with regard to services currently delivered at MVCC.

Ten Local Authorities are fully represented, including the London Boroughs of Hillingdon, Harrow, Brent and Ealing.

Seven out of 17 voting members are from North West London Boroughs (around 40% compared to a 33% share of the cancer centre's patient population). A non-voting member from Barnet attends (approximately 2% share of the patient population).

Membership can be found here: [Committee details - Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Date of meeting	Link to papers
16/12/2024	Agenda for Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 16 December 2024, 10.00 am Hertfordshire County Council
09/10/2019	Agenda for Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 24 March 2025, 10.00 am Hertfordshire County Council

Hillingdon and Hertfordshire HOSC Chairs and Vice-Chairs visited the Mount Vernon site early in the programme to consider establishing a Joint HOSC. In November 2024, Chairs and officers of

Hillingdon, Harrow, Brent, Ealing, Barnet Health Scrutiny Committees visited the site again in November 2024, along with members from the East of England and South East. They talked to members of the programme team and clinicians and toured the site. The few who couldn't come in person were able to dial in via Teams.

Prior to the establishment of the JHOSC, engagement had taken place with individual HOSCs:

Hillingdon Health and Social Care Select Committee:

Hillingdon Health and Social Care Select Committee (formerly Hillingdon External Services Select Committee) has been briefed on the MVCC review since it was established. Informal meetings took place initially with the Chair prior to attendance at each full committee:

Date of meeting	Link to papers
12/06/2019	https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=3452&Ver=4
09/10/2019	https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=3455&Ver=4
23/03/2020	Cancelled due to COVID
08/10/2020	https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=3793&Ver=4
07/10/2021	London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for External Services Select Committee on Thursday, 7th October, 2021, 6.30 pm
26/01/2023	London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for Health and Social Care Select Committee on Thursday, 26th January, 2023, 6.30 pm
24/07/2024	London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for Health and Social Care Select Committee on Wednesday, 24th July, 2024, 6.30 pm
12/11/2024	London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for Health and Social Care Select Committee on Tuesday, 12th November, 2024, 6.30 pm

- All meetings were streamed live and were covered by a local journalist.
- A site visit took place on 4th February 2020 for the Chair, Vice Chair and officer who met with members of the MVCC team and project team and participated in a roundtable discussion that also involved Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee Chair.
- In August 2020, monthly informal meetings were scheduled with the Chair of Hillingdon Scrutiny Committee and the scrutiny officer.
- The Committee receives regular stakeholder updates from the Programme

Harrow Health Scrutiny Committee:

Date of meeting	Link to papers
19/11/20	(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 19/11/2020 18:30
23/02/21	Agenda for Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Tuesday 23 February 2021, 6.30 pm – London Borough of Harrow
22/06/21	Agenda for Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Tuesday 22 June 2021, 6.30 pm – London Borough of Harrow
5/11/24	Meeting:
10/12/24	Agenda for Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Tuesday 10 December 2024, 6.30 pm – London Borough of Harrow

- Informal meetings have been held with Harrow scrutiny chair, vice chair and officers prior to scrutiny meetings and as required since 2020.

- The Committee receives regular stakeholder updates from the Programme

Barnet Health Scrutiny Committee: 05/09/2024

Date of meeting	Link to papers
05/09/24	Agenda for Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Thursday 5th September, 2024, 7.00 pm

NW London JHOSC

Informal discussions have taken place with Brent Health Scrutiny Committee Chair, Ketan Sheth when the review began and as proposals were developed. Cllr Sheth also chairs the NWL JHOSC and undertook to keep members verbally updated of progress. Each London committee is on the distribution list for stakeholder updates from the Programme.

6. MP and Parliamentary Interest

In 2021 the Clinical Advisory Group (the senior clinicians at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre) wrote to MPs to explain the challenges the cancer centre was facing and offered the opportunity for MPs to visit the site and meet with clinicians. A number of MPs took up that offer.

Date of visit	MP
19/11/21	Dean Russell
24/09/21	Greg Smith
17/09/21	Sarah Owen
09/09/21	Richard Fuller
18/08/21	Gagan Mohindra
23/08/21	David Simmonds and member of PM's parliamentary office
27/27/22	Baroness Thornhill
10/12/24	Paul Burstow

Meetings in Westminster or the MP's constituency have also taken place with Gareth Thomas – February 2020 and August 2023 and David Simmonds (who also attended one of the public focus groups) – May 2024.

There have been various briefings of ministers ahead of potential Prime Minister's Questions, or key meetings, and when MPs have been granted the opportunity to ask an oral question in the House of Commons. These have not all come to fruition.

Most London MP communication has been with Gareth Thomas MP (Harrow West) and David Simmonds MP (Northwood). There was also some communication and a site visit from the constituency office of Boris Johnson (Uxbridge).

Gareth Thomas was granted a Westminster Hall Adjournment Debate for 4th March 2020, at which the House was asked to consider the future of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-04/debates/61190A37-15FF-4F2E-B28F-B90A748913B0/MountVernonCancerCentre>

Hansard record of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre references in the House of Commons:

Date	MP	Item
14/10/19	Gareth Thomas	Debate on the Address
13/02/20	Gareth Thomas	February Adjournment
13/02/20	Stuart Andrew	February Adjournment
04/03/20	Gareth Thomas	Mount Vernon Cancer Centre
04/03/20	Edward Argar	Mount Vernon Cancer Centre
12/01/22	Mohammad Yasin	Access to Radiotherapy
09/03/23	Liz Kendall	Brain Tumour Research Funding
7/11/23	Garnet Thomas	Debate on the Address
04/02/25	Daisy Cooper	Accessibility of Radiotherapy

Written Questions, Answers and Statements:

02/06/23	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what avenues for capital funding are available for the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, and if he will make a statement.
02/09/23	Bim Afolami	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the future sustainability of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre
29/09/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent progress has been made in upgrading the cancer facilities at Mount Vernon Hospital, and if he will make a statement
01/12/20	Sir Oliver Heald	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of cancer patients receiving treatment at Mount Vernon Hospital live in Hertfordshire
10/03/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care when he plans to make a decision on the future of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre
12/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 10 February 2020 to Question 12197 on Mount Vernon Hospital Northwood and Northwick Park Hospital: Radiotherapy, what the cost to the public purse will be of replacing each linear accelerator
03/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what estimate he has made of the cost of making safe asbestos on the Mount Vernon Hospital site, and if he will make a statement
06/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what assessment he made of the effectiveness of (1) digital and (b) paper care records at Mount Vernon Hospital and if he will make a statement
03/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what the estimated cost to the public purse is of (a) replacing and (b) relocating the Linear Accelerators on the Mount Vernon site to another location, and if he will make a statement
04/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care how many (a) nurses and (b) doctors are employed to provide cancer care at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and if he will make a statement
04/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care whether Mount Vernon Cancer Centre is permitted to provide advanced

		radiotherapy as recommended by NICEEW for the treatment of lung cancer and if he will make a statement.
04/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what the (a) age an estimated remaining working life is of radiotherapy machinery at (i) Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and (ii) Northwick Park Hospital and if he will make a statement
03/02/20	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what plans he has to sell off NHS land on the Mount Vernon Hospital site and if he will make a statement
19/12/19	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what his department's policy is on the future of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and if he will make a statement
29/10/19	Stephen McPartland	Whether he plans to increase access to radiotherapy in Hertfordshire by introducing a satellite radiotherapy service in Stevenage
16/10/19	Gareth Thomas	To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what steps he has taken since the July 2019 publication of the Clinical Advisory Panel's review of cancer services at Mount Vernon and if he will make a statement

Prime Minister's Questions:

16/06/21	David Simmonds	...Will my right honourable friend commit to working with me and other local Members of Parliament, and potential future MPs, to secure the future of services at Mount Vernon Hospital in my constituency, which provides specialist medical treatments to a very wide catchment area?
16/06/21	Boris Johnson	...I look forward to working with him to ensure that the future of services at <i>Mount Vernon</i> is also protected. I know that a full consultation is due to start in September.

7. Media Coverage:

Examples of London media coverage during the period of this review:

Publication	Date	Link
The Guardian	03/10/19	Neglected NHS cancer hospital is unfit for purpose, says report Hospitals The Guardian
Watford Observer and Harrow Times	31/01/20	Mount Vernon Cancer Centre could stay open under new management Watford Observer
HSJ	03/02/20	Major London provider to take over 'dilapidated' cancer centre News Health Service Journal
Northwood News	February 2020	Northwood & Ruislip February 20 Low Res
MyLondon	12/10/20	Some services at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre could be moved to a hospital site to modernise treatments - MyLondon
Brent&Kilburn Times	19/12/20	Brent's cancer services must be moved to a main hospital site Brent & Kilburn Times
Harrow Online	08/09/24	https://harrowonline.org/2024/09/08/residents-invited-to-comment-on-mount-vernon-centre-move-from-northwood-to-watford/

Harrow Online	17/11/24	Councillors slam 'appalling' 5-year delay in Mount Vernon Cancer Centre relocation plans - Harrow Online
Harrow Online	8/12/24	https://harrowonline.org/2024/12/18/mount-vernon-relocation-plans-linked-to-funding-for-watford-general-hospital-redevelopment/

There have also been a number of mentions and discussions on social media:

← **Tweet**



Cllr Ketan Sheth
 @ketansheth3

People have been talking about changes needed to Mount Vernon Cancer Centre for over 40 years — Brent residents now have an opportunity to influence specialist cancer services for the next 40!
[@JessamyKinghorn](#) [@enherts](#)
kilburntimes.co.uk/news/new-mount...

9:01 AM · Feb 3, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

7 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 13 Likes








Gareth Thomas MP  @GarethThomasMP · Jan 30

Over 20,000 people signed my petition to save **Mount Vernon Cancer Centre** 📄 last year.

I recently tabled a PQ to ask what progress is being made to upgrade the **cancer** facilities at **Mount Vernon**. The Govt Minister says "a review is underway to relocate the services". (1/2)



Question

 **Gareth Thomas**
Labour
Harrow West

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent progress has been made in upgrading the cancer facilities at Mount Vernon Hospital; and if he will make a statement on this.

Answer

 **Jo Churchill**
Conservative
Rush & Edmunds

Answered on

14 January 2021

The cancer service is not clinically sustainable on its present site and a review to relocate the services. Final options are expected to be decided in April 2021 before consultation which is expected to start from June 2021 and a decision expected by the end of the year.

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