

Report from Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the Health in Dacorum Committee Meeting of 3rd September 2019

A meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) was held on 11th July 2019.

The Committee considered the proposed move of Moorfields Eye Hospital site from City Road in Islington to a new centre, bringing together excellent eye care, research and world leading ophthalmology education on the site of St. Pancras hospital just north of St. Pancras and Kings Cross stations in London. The current estate dates from the 1890s, creating impractical and uncomfortable conditions.

The proposed move does not include changes to Moorfields services at its 30 other sites.

Moorfields provides specialised services for patients from all over the UK. The interest that Hertfordshire clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) hold significant contracts with Moorfields and services at City Road are also commissioned by NHS England specialised commissioning.

An independent travel analysis was carried out, showing that less than 1.5% of patients would have travel times increased by more than 20 minutes.

The consultation runs from 24.05.19-16.09.19.

There was an update on the West Herts. Hospitals Trust estate. The Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been published on the websites of the trust and Herts. Valleys CCG. The Committee felt that it needed to look at this in depth so decided to set up a topic group, which would meet in September 2019.

The Herts. & West Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), like other NHS organisations had to set a control total in respect of its financial outturn for the year, taking into account its underlying financial position and recent financial performance. The combined control total of the Herts. & West Essex STP for 2019/20 is a deficit of £25.8 million.

The Committee looked at a review of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, a standalone facility run by East & North Herts NHS Trust but situated in north Middlesex and run by Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. 60% of its patients come from Herts and Beds. As well as aging buildings there are limited support services on site, with no high dependency or intensive care beds so patients who become very ill are sent by emergency ambulance to Watford General Hospital. Options are being developed for the Mount Vernon centre.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest