Commendation of the Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust 2020-2030 forward plan

The undersigned members of clinical staff who also act as representatives of their local health Trade Unions would like to offer our support of the proposals that Epsom and St Helier stay together as one Trust. We believe that we have built strong working relationships together over the years which have benefited patients, staff and the Trust.

To provide the best health care possible for our local population in the future, we need to recruit and retain high calibre staff. We are far more likely to do that if we have the buildings, technology and facilities available to meet the deepening challenges ahead. A new purpose built building would go a long way to meeting the training and development needs of staff whilst providing state of the art care to our ageing population and increasing patient numbers. It would mean that more money could be diverted from crumbling building repairs to frontline patient services.

We also see opportunity to prosper local hospitals through developing facilities such as urgent care centres, therapies and outpatients clinics which already deal with a high percentage of patient activity. Allied to that, building up strong relations with our care partners such as GP's and social care will help ensure good stewardship of our resources and improving outcomes for our patients.

We would encourage all staff and members of the public to get involved in the consultation process so that we have credibility and momentum to make the changes that are now so necessary.

Michael Smith, Chair of Staffside, Royal College of Nursing (RCN representative and senior nurse)

James Newbury, Katie Gerrish, Joint Vice-Chairs of Staffside, Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP)

Stephanie Carr, Society of Radiographers (SoR)

Clare Baldock, British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BOS)

Nicola Young, Royal College of Midwives (RCM)

Dr Dwynwen Roberts, British Medical Association, (BMA)

Rosalind Boxall, UNISON