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Sent: 06 October 2017 14:15
To: 2020-2030, Esth (EPSOM AND ST HELIER UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST)
Subject: Engagement Response

Please accept the comments below sent on behalf of Cllr Lucy Botting, Executive Member for Wellbeing, Mole Valley District Council

Do you agree with our aim to provide as much care as possible from our existing hospital sites at St Helier and Epsom and do this by working more closely with the other local health and care providers?

Of course, a joined up approach to inpatient and community healthcare must be the key to preventing hospital admissions where possible and enabling patients to be discharged from hospital as quickly as possible, when it is safe to do so. This can be achieved outside of hospital settings in community facilities to remove pressure on hospital sites. This requires active partnership working across the health and social care sectors including the appreciating the real value of district and borough independent living services and those offered by the community and voluntary sector, but none of this come for free. 'Working more closely' must mean real partnership and not devolution of responsibility without the appropriate infrastructure and resourcing that should follow.

Do you think we have made the case that we will improve patient care by bringing together our services for our sickest or most at-risk patients on a new specialist acute facility on one site?

Financially it of course makes sense to fund just one specialist acute facility, however the concern for all residents within the catchment of the Hospital Trust will be the continuing loss of those services from their local area. Over the last few years there has already been a downgrading of services from Epsom Hospital in relation to the removal of stroke specialism and mental health in-patient beds. The A&E at Epsom is currently a medical A&E so surgical cases are already dealt with at other facilities. What the residents of MV will need reassurance of is that a needs analysis of our population and the flows to the hospital currently has been conducted and taken account of in order to understand the need for change. Epsom hospital has undergone many reviews in the past few years which has led to uncertainty about the hospital's future. This current exercise only adds to that uncertainty.

We have set out several scenarios on how we can do this. Do you think we should consider an other scenarios?

Any business case needs to be based on a thorough needs analysis of the population flows into the different sites and the needs of those populations.

How would you like to be involved in these discussions in the future?

Residents concerns and interests need to be listened to in establishing any business case based on the needs of the populations using these services. More engagement events and better publicity of them is needed.

The Council is already represented on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of SCC and the Health Liaison Committee hosted by Epsom and Ewell Council, and wider engagement with Members would also be appreciated.