

Letter to BHR HOSC Chairs

Dear Health Overview and Scrutiny Chairs,

I am writing to you on behalf of NHS partners involved in the proposals for a new Health and Wellbeing Hub at the former St George's Hospital site in Hornchurch. We want to let you know about our plans to engage local people and stakeholders on the proposals for the site as part of the next stage of this important health and care development.

As you will recall, in 2019, the Prime Minister announced in late 2019 that North East London Health and Care Partnership were to benefit from £17 million of funding to take forward plans for a new health and wellbeing centre at the former St George's Hospital site in Suttons Lane, Hornchurch.

NELFT has agreed to be the lead partner on this project, which also involves colleagues from North East London CCG (NEL CCG), our local acute trusts, primary care providers and specialist commissioning colleagues from NHS England (NHSE)

Due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the need for local health and care services to be reprioritised to manage our response to this, the progress with our proposals for the Health and Wellbeing Hub has been slower than we would have liked.

While NHS services remain extremely busy as we head into winter, partners are now ready to move forward with the development. We are working closely with NHS England to look at how we can meet national deadlines related to the funding requirements, which means we do have to work at pace.

We consider that the development of the site will be of interest to people living and working across your three boroughs and are therefore planning a 12 week period of engagement to give residents and stakeholders an opportunity to have their say on key aspects of the proposals.

We intend to start the engagement period in mid November, concluding in February 2022. We have developed a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, and will be working with Council partners, Healthwatch and other local voluntary sector organisations to make sure we reach out to as many people as we can.

The communications and engagement plan is attached for your consideration, and we would also like to organise a virtual meeting with all our local HOSC Chairs within the next week so you have an opportunity to ask questions ahead of your individual HOSC meetings in early November.

At your HOSC meetings we plan to present the communications and engagement plan and discuss the next steps so we can take into account the committees' **views of the process**.

During the engagement period we intend to attend the 14 Dec ONEL JHOSC (and other individual HOSC meetings as the timeline allows) in order to gather the views of the OSCs **on the proposals**.

We have asked Melissa Hoskins from the NEL CCG communications and engagement team to help facilitate the virtual meeting with you as Scrutiny Chairs, and she will also support NELFT in terms of liaison with your committee officers for the HOSCs and JHOSC.

We have also previously had useful feedback from both yourself and from Healthwatch on our engagement documents and other materials, which has been helpful in ensuring the language we use is clear and answers as many key questions as we can. We hope you will also support us with this – and our Communications lead will be in contact directly in the next week or so.

With best wishes and thanks for your support in advance

Henry Black

Accountable Officer
NELCCG

Dr Atul Aggarwal

Clinical Chair for Havering – NEL CCG
Clinical Lead for the St George's redevelopment project