

## Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

### Stakeholder Update – January 2020

This briefing is to provide you with an update on the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Review as we enter the next phase of the programme.

The Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Review was launched in May 2019, with an independent clinical review reporting in July and a three-month programme of patient engagement concluding in September. The review was initiated to find a solution to issues of an ageing estate at Mount Vernon, combined with limited support facilities (in particular acute clinical services and HDU and ITU support), which create specific structural and pathway challenges. The sustainability of services in the medium and long term relies on the extent to which it will be feasible to develop clinical options which support access to the full range of inpatient services.

The independent clinical review recommended the appointment of a specialist cancer provider to run the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre services, and that this recommendation be taken forward ahead of the development of options for long term service provision.

We have been running a process to identify that provider and can confirm that after a desktop evaluation of bids, a panel of experts have assessed the bids from two providers and reached a consensus on a preferred provider. The panel included representatives from the MVCC clinical team, Hertfordshire and Hillingdon Healthwatch organisations, national clinical experts, Cancer Alliance, local CCGs, and specialised commissioners.

The panel will share their conclusions and make a recommendation to the Programme Board later this week which will then formally recommend a change of provider. The decision to appoint a new provider will be made by NHS England Commissioning Team and East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (as the lead CCG) at the end of January. The appointment will be subject to a 12 month period of due diligence during which time commissioners and the preferred provider will undertake detailed work before the transition to the new provider is confirmed.

If commissioners agree with the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel, this will mean:

- East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust (ENHT) will continue to run the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre services until the end of March 2021.

## NHS England and NHS Improvement



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*Paper by: Jessamy Kinghorn, Head of Partnerships and Engagement, NHS England and NHS Improvement, issued 13/01/2020*

- The preferred provider will provide leadership support to Mount Vernon Cancer Centre between April 2020 and March 2021, but will not be responsible for the services until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- The change of provider is purely a management issue and does not affect the current range of services provided or where they are provided from – a new provider will not mean patients need to travel to Cambridge or London for treatment, unless that is part of an existing cancer pathway or necessary to benefit from a specialist clinical trial not available at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.
- A programme of work will begin in February to develop long-term options to ensure the future sustainability of services for the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre population. Patients and stakeholders, including local hospitals and Clinical Commissioning Groups, will be involved in developing a range of options. These options will include maintaining services at or near the current MVCC site. They will be evaluated on a range of criteria which patients have already had input into and include local access and interface with other services. There will be public consultation before any changes are made.

Following a risk review meeting in December, commissioners were assured by the positive steps that ENHT has taken to ensure the quality and safety MVCC services whilst this review continues. Commissioners were pleased to see the embedding of the new admissions policy and greater multi-disciplinary working. We will continue to work closely with the current provider to ensure the safety of the services, and with Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Trust regarding maintenance of the estate.

The next stakeholder update will take place early in February, once commissioners have considered the recommendation of the Panel and can formally announce the successful provider.

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC) is part of East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust (ENHT) and provides a specialist non-surgical cancer service for a population of 2 million people across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northwest London and parts of the Thames Valley. It is based in Middlesex on a site owned by Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHT). Core on site services include:

- 21 inpatient beds
- Palliative care bed provision (outside the scope of this review)
- Radiotherapy – 7 LINACs, Cyberknife, Brachytherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Nuclear Medicine
- Paul Strickland Scanner Centre – an independent medical charity providing CT, PET CT and MRI diagnostics.
- Outpatient services

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