

**From
NHS England East of England Specialised
Commissioning Team on behalf of the Mount
Vernon Cancer Centre Review Programme Board**

28 June 2019

To patients, carers, patient and community groups,

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Review

I am writing to let you know that the NHS in North London and the East of England is working together to review the services at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and to tell you how you can get involved and give your feedback.

The Mount Vernon Cancer Centre is run by East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and delivered from a site in North Middlesex managed by the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It is a standalone cancer centre and primarily serves a population of over 2 million people in Hertfordshire, south Bedfordshire, North West London and Berkshire. The patient pathways involve 16 other hospitals and arrangements with 6 other NHS trusts. There is an extremely small number of patients who use the service from other parts of the country.

The Centre provides outpatient chemotherapy, nuclear medicine, brachytherapy and haematology as well as radiotherapy for these populations. There are also inpatient and ambulatory wards.

We are working with the staff at Mount Vernon, with other local hospitals and commissioners, and with the local Cancer Alliances to look at how we can best meet the needs of local people, and develop options that will build on the services, research and patient experience the Centre already delivers.

You will probably have noticed that some of the buildings are not in a good state of repair, and a number of concerns have been raised in relation to the long-term clinical sustainability of the Cancer Centre.

The doctors and nurses at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre have done a good job in putting things in place to ensure that treatment is high quality and that patients are safe, and the patient survey feedback shows that most patients are happy with the services they receive.

NHS England and NHS Improvement



However, the doctors, nurses and managers all agree that a more permanent solution needs to be found to ensure the sustainability of the services in the long term.

As well as ageing buildings, there are limited support facilities on site. For example, there are no high dependency or intensive care beds so patients who become very poorly are sent in an emergency ambulance to Watford General Hospital.

This limited support at the site creates challenges for the patient pathway, and you may have experienced, or know someone who has experienced, having treatment in a number of different places because of this. As cancer treatment becomes more advanced and as demand for cancer treatment grows, this is becoming more of an issue for patients at Mount Vernon.

In developing the options, we have heard from doctors and nurses and are talking to other hospitals in the areas and other organisations that use the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. We are also arranging some events to hear from patients.

We have already looked at existing patient feedback on the services to see what patients think is good and what does not work so well, and we are working closely with Healthwatch Hertfordshire and Healthwatch Hillingdon who are helping us arrange the patient events and a patient survey.

We are also happy to come and talk to patient and community groups to hear your views and ideas and answer any questions you have.

The services are commissioned by NHS England's Specialised Commissioning team and local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

This stage of the review is only looking at developing some options, not choosing the final option. If these options might require a permanent change to the services at Mount Vernon, we will then consult with patients and local people later this year.



If you would like to provide any feedback at this stage, or find out more, you can...

- 1. Email your feedback or questions directly to the project team**
- 2. Register your interest to receive updates and invitations to events**
- 3. Ask us to attend a patient or community group meeting**

You can do all these by emailing england.eoesct-projects@nhs.net

- 4. Attend a patient event – you can find the details below**
- 5. Complete the survey which will be published at the start of July**

Four patient events are taking place in July. We know that many patients and carers prefer not to go to evening events and so all of the events below will start with a light buffet lunch at 12.30pm, followed by a workshop which will last from 1pm to 3.30pm.

The events are taking place in:

- Knebworth House Barns and Park, Knebworth, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG3 6PY, on 10 July
- Brunel University London, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, on 16 July
- Holiday Inn, Airport Way, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 9LF, on 17 July
- A London venue to be confirmed, on 23 July.

If you cannot attend a daytime event, and would find an evening event easier, please email us to let us know at england.eoesct-projects@nhs.net. We may be able to put on an extra event if there is enough interest in an evening workshop.

To register to attend one of these events, please visit by following this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/nhs-england-mount-vernon-review-23444228820> or visiting the Eventbrite website and searching for Mount Vernon.

Alternatively, you can telephone event organiser Verve Communications on 020 7017 2011 between 9.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Ashmore

Director of Specialised Commissioning and Health and Justice
East of England

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