



Date: 26 July 2012

**Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

c/o Scrutiny Office  
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Charles Waddicor  
Chief Executive  
NHS Berkshire  
57 - 59 Bath Rd  
Reading, Berkshire  
RG30 2BA

Dear Mr Waddicor,

**Shaping the Future of Healthcare in East Berkshire: Vision Document (June/July 2012)**

The Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to submit the following points in response to the pre-consultation document on the Shaping the Future proposals.

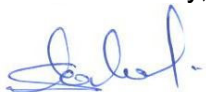
1. Having reviewed the document, it is clear that the programme is primarily focusing on Heatherwood and Wexham Park Foundation Trust (H&WPT), and therefore the title of the document in referring to "Healthcare in East Berkshire" is misleading. The proposals, as a whole, are not strategic, do not provide any significant changes to the provision of healthcare, and reflect something of the status quo, which we had been led to believe was not a viable option. Connected to this, we believe that more detail of how other public and private health service providers neighbouring facilities, including those at Frimley Park and the Royal Berkshire, fit within these proposals is required.
2. We are deeply concerned that there is a complete lack of detail on the financial model. The JEBHOSC recognised the significant development required at all three of the primary sites in East Berkshire (Wexham Park, Heatherwood and Bracknell), alongside the Community Health teams, yet there is no clear understanding of how the financial investment to meet these requirements will be settled. A fundamental element of this is the sale of land at the Heatherwood site, of which much more information is needed on who holds the land and what covenants exist and how these impact on any proposals, specifically whether this can realistically deliver the funding required for the development of H&WPT on time. In addition, the JEBHOSC would seek confirmation from the NHS that a portion of currently unused land Heatherwood will not be included in the sale in order to support any future healthcare needs at the site.
3. We also feel that the plans are missing details of the anticipated benefits realisation plan, which we feel is fundamental to allowing a reasoned judgement to be made on the proposals.

4. We will also add that we feel that the proposals would have the effect of committing the new Clinical Commissioning Groups to contracts which may hinder their future work towards improving competition and patient choice.
5. JEBHOSC is very disappointed that the document did not provide sufficient information for them to fully respond to the questions posed. In particular, greater clarity is needed about the future provision of rehabilitation beds. The JEBHOSC understands that there will be a provision held at Heatherwood but this is not clearly articulated in the document, nor is how rehabilitation beds at the Community Hospitals will effectively meet requirements. The JEBHOSC asks that detailed information is provided in the main consultation document, which gives exact provision numbers.
6. Following the 'Right Care Right Place' major consultation in 2007/08, Health Service Commissioners committed to providing the 'Healthspace' in Bracknell Forest. Despite that promise and funds having been allotted to its creation some years ago, the document proposes consulting afresh on whether it is a good idea. We do not see any case for this to be included in the consultation. Instead, efforts need to be concentrated on the delivery of the Healthspace, which is long overdue.
7. The JEBHOSC also feels that the reference to maternity services fails to fully show how patients' preferences will be met. It also fails to indicate how staff capacity will be ensured, in what is already a difficult national picture.
8. The JEBHOSC would like to see more information in the main consultation document on what transport provisions will be put in place to support residents with mobility issues when they may need to travel further to receive services in the future; as well as how the capacity to the Ambulance Service will be taken into consideration with the potential of a greater number of residents than currently requiring transportation to facilities at Frimley Park and the Royal Berkshire.
9. The JEBHOSC would like to see details of how the engagement of the public will be undertaken during the consultation process. The Committee welcomed the public engagement that has been undertaken during the pre-consultation, but questioned how well these events had been advertised. The JEBHOSC requests details of the Communication Plan that the NHS will be using during this period.

In addition to the above, the JEBHOSC also asks that the PCT provide confirmation as to who will be taking the Shaping the Future proposals forward after the PCT is abolished in April 2013.

The JEBHOSC looks forward to receiving a response from the PCT on the points made above, and reviewing how these issues will be reflected in the draft of the full consultation document.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor S Dhaliwal  
Chairman  
Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

cc. All Members of Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
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