

Further to the additional questions posed relating to Edenbridge

Edenbridge Questions and Our Answers

- i. Assurance over the timings in the Project Plan set out in 6.3 of the report, especially in light of any coronavirus delays
 - i. ANSWER - The parties are all committed to delivering the new building as soon as is practicable given the pressures being faced by the practice and in the current hospital. It is true that any significant increase of Covid-19 pressures would require management focus to be directed to that. However, the commitment of the practice, Trust and CCG remain clear and work currently continues mostly unaffected by the pandemic. The timetable is also linked to requirements from NHSE/I and the regulators' permission in the light of the pandemic but we are optimistic that any questions from the regulators can be managed within the agreed timetable.

- ii. Flexibility of new building to expand and will there be sufficient parking
 - i. ANSWER - The building has been designed to maximise flexibility of use over time as needs or priorities change, and this has been facilitated by the commitment of the partner organisations to integration and sharing of spaces. The planned parking spaces have been developed with support from expert parking consultants and should be sufficient.

- iii. Continuation of current Minor Injuries Unit and X-Ray services in new build?
 - i. ANSWER - The CCG consulted formally on the model and agreed to proceed on the basis that the only significant service withdrawal would be the removal of inpatient beds. The plans that have been developed do include a walk-in service for minor-injuries and ailments (naming of service is still to be finalised) and also do include x-ray.

- iv. Is there an intention to block purchase inpatient beds to deal with any overflow from Pembury Hospital?
 - i. ANSWER - The CCG and the Community Trust are working together to model the number of community inpatient beds needed in west Kent over coming years, to develop plans for where those should be and to determine how many should be NHS provided beds. These may well be complemented by beds contracted from other providers (including care homes) and will certainly be supported also by community provision enabling a higher proportion of patients to be discharged to

their own homes. There is a well-established model for patients being discharged from the acute hospital whereby they can be discharged into care homes which are given additional medical support.

- v. Paragraph 3 around potential investors – what are they investing in, the new build or some space on the land? Who from KCC has been involved in these decisions so far – local Member Peter Lake did not know about such discussions?
 - i. ANSWER - Investors would be sought to fund the construction of the new facility. Informal exploratory discussions have been held with a number of potential investors including private, specialist companies, KCC and Sevenoaks Council. The KCC department most involved has been Strategic and Corporate Services.
- vi. What is the nature of the investors Assura plc?
 - i. ANSWER - Assura is one company among others that specialises in designing, constructing, funding and often then owning buildings used by the NHS (including GP practices, health centres, community hospitals etc). The NHS would use a formal procurement methodology to select any such investor if that approach is determined.

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