



5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### Independent watchdog arranges opportunities for Surrey residents to influence where new health facility for the sickest people will be built

The local independent watchdog for health and social care has arranged for residents to give their feedback on proposals for which existing hospital site a new purpose-built facility should be built on (Epsom Hospital, St Helier Hospital or Sutton Hospital).

Epsom and St Helier hospital bosses are working on plans to secure £300-400 m to invest in a new specialist facility for acutely sick patients, where majors A&E, inpatient beds for children, births and complex emergency surgery can be delivered.

As part of this work, Healthwatch Surrey will be running showcase events, drop-in events at community, hospital and high-street locations across the local area and hosting an online survey to get as many views as possible. They will use the results of all this feedback to ensure the views are independently reviewed and shared with and considered by the trust.

Kate Scribbins, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Surrey said:

“We have been assured by the trust that the location of the new facility could be on any one of their three sites and that services currently provided on each of the sites will remain.

“We would therefore urge local people to take this early and important opportunity to have their say on how and where they would like to use their hospital services in the future.”

Healthwatch Surrey will use their independence to gather views in several ways:

- Four, one-hour ‘showcase’ events at Epsom Downs Racecourse at 8am, 11am, 4pm and 7pm on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. These events will offer people the opportunity to hear about the plans, ask questions of Directors from Epsom and St Helier and give their views.
- Healthwatch staff and volunteers will be available at six drop-in events at community, hospital and high-street locations across the local area in September:
  - Epsom Hospital (main entrance), Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 8am-8pm
  - Banstead High Street, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 8am-8pm

- Cobham High Street, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 8am-8pm
  - Epsom and Ewell Family Fun Day, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 11.30am-4.30pm, Hook Road Arena
  - Leatherhead Market, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 9am-3pm,
  - Dorking High Street, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 8am-8pm
- Online video and survey, available on the Healthwatch Surrey website: [www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/epsom2020-2030/](http://www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/epsom2020-2030/)

Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust said:

“We want local people to join the conversation and have their say about creating a brand new, £300-£400 million acute facility. We are at a very early stage in the Epsom and St Helier 2020-2030 ambitions, but hearing the views and opinions of the local people we serve will give us the best chance of securing a sustainable future for all of our hospitals, as well as creating a new state-of-the-art facility to care for generations of people to come.

“I believe that this is a very exciting opportunity for local people, our staff and our patients, and I would urge everyone to come and find out more.”

Healthwatch Surrey’s Kate Scribbins added:

“We are here to ensure the voices of everyone are heard. Everything you share with us will be kept anonymous, so you can be honest about what you think.”

Residents can also find out more and have their say at [www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/epsom2020-2030/](http://www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/epsom2020-2030/)

**ENDS**

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Lauren ter Kuile on 07545 433465 or [lauren.terkuile@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk](mailto:lauren.terkuile@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk)

### Further information

- For further information about Epsom & St Helier 2020-2030, please visit the Trust’s website at <https://www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/epsom-and-st-helier-2020-2030> or contact [esth2020-2030@nhs.uk](mailto:esth2020-2030@nhs.uk) or via the communications team.
- Healthwatch Surrey is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services. We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care. We listen to what people like about services, what could be improved and we share their views with those with the power to make change happen. We also help people find information they need about services in their area.

- Healthwatch has the power to ensure that people's voices are heard by the government and those running services. As well as seeking the public's views ourselves, we also encourage services to involve people in decisions that affect them. Our sole purpose is to help make care better.
- A local rate contact number (0303 303 0023), SMS number (07592 787 533) and email contact [enquiries@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk) have been set up to help people share their experiences or get information about? services.
- People can also visit Citizens Advice in Surrey Heath, Woking, Reigate and Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne and Waverley to speak about their experience and get information about services.
- Healthwatch Surrey has a seat on the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board and can alert Healthwatch England and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to concerns about services.