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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Millman Road Health Centre, 50 Millman Road, Reading RG2 OAR

I am writing on behalf of NHS England to express our support for the building extension that is planned for the Millman Road Practice at the above address. As you will be aware the NHS has set out a long term plan for General Practice known as the GP Five Year Forward View and the overarching objectives of this plan is to transform GP services, so that patients are able to access improved and joined up out of hospital care, closer to home. A further objective of the plan is to ensure that GP services remain robust and sustainable in the long term.

The GP Forward View has set out the importance of investment in both premises and technology infrastructure, in order to enable service transformation to take place within General Practice and NHS England is currently undertaking a multi-million pound programme of investment, known as the Estates & Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF), in order to put into place the infrastructure that will both underpin and accelerate the transformation.

The existing surgery building, which is now at full capacity, is currently used to provide the full range of traditional GP services along with other services such as counselling, Citizens Advice Bureau, smoking cessation clinics and healthy living promotions. The South Reading Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), has identified the Millman Road Practice as the main health hub for the area of Whitley, so that it is able to deliver a broader range of services to the local population. Examples of these are consultant led clinics with services providing whole system care for patients e.g. those suffering from complex, multiple conditions such as Diabetes combined with Hypertension and Heart Disease. In this scenario, rather than multiple visits to deal with each condition separately, the patient only needs to attend the surgery on one occasion but then has access to the full, multi-disciplinary team involved in their care. The proposed new extension allows these teams to have a modern clinical setting in which to operate from, in an environment familiar to the patient, but has also been designed to complement the multi-disciplinary nature of the team, so that

the rooms can be used for multiple purposes, thus making optimum use of the space.

The development of this site as a health hub is very much aligned to the commissioning strategies of the CCG and the building project along with the overall strategic plan also has the support of the other neighbouring CCG's, as they work as a federation in order to commission services across a wider geographical area. As this is a strategic project for the CCG, the project has also been positively received by NHS England and included on the ETTF programme, which means that the practice may be eligible for a capital grant towards this infrastructure project. The availability of this capital grant is contingent on the satisfactory completion of all due diligence checks and the grant will only be awarded once it has been demonstrated that the project is viable, planning permission has been obtained, the project can be delivered within a certain time frame and that the project costs represent value for money to the NHS. Therefore, whilst it is not possible to make any firm commitment to the practice at this stage regarding the grant, none the less we hope that this demonstrates that the overall proposal is viewed in a favourable light at present.

It is also worth mentioning that as technology has become increasingly sophisticated, it has enabled the way patients interact with clinicians to evolve e.g. remote consultations, patient monitoring via apps, email advisory service etc meaning that whilst additional space is still required as the clinicians themselves need the additional space to operate from, it does mean that the practice can provide many more services without patients having to attend the building. Therefore, although the Millman Road Practice will be able to provide a wider range of services e.g. 24 hour ECG monitoring (traditionally provided in a hospital setting), this does not necessarily mean there will be a detrimental impact on the neighbourhood in terms of volumes of traffic and car parking issues.

It is very much hoped that the Reading Borough Council will support the planning application for this extension which will support the CCG in the delivery of primary care services and help to establish a health hub for the area, as well as ensuring the NHS as a whole is able to deliver the objectives of the GP Five Year Forward View, all of which will provide many long term benefits to the local population.

If you should require any additional information on the above, do not hesitate to contact either NHS England or the Millman Road Practice.

Yours faithfully,



Debra Elliott
Director of Commissioning
NHS England South, South Central
Director of Armed Forces Health Commissioning (Operations) for England