

NHS South Reading CCG

57-59 Bath Road

Reading

Berkshire

RG30 2BA

Tel: 0118 982 2738

Email: eleanormitchell@nhs.net

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To: Head of Planning, Planning Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU

Re: Letter in support of the intended planning work at Milman Road Health Centre

I am writing to you on behalf of NHS South Reading Clinical Commissioning Group to confirm our strong support for the proposed extension to Milman Road Health Centre.

In the wider context, NHS England has set out its strategy to transform primary care across the country and is described in the document *General Practice Forward View (GPFV)* published in April 2016. This sets out a national approach to improving investment, workforce, workload, infrastructure and care design. Using this guidance, plus access to additional funding, primary care will be future-proofed to meet the needs of a growing and ageing population with complex multiple health conditions by offering population-orientated primary care.

In response to this national direction of travel, South Reading CCG has developed a local primary care strategy and action plan that sets out how we will develop primary care in our locality to meet the needs of our population and ensure long-term sustainability. As part of this strategy, sixteen GP practices in South Reading CCG have recently formed into an Alliance in order to ensure their sustainability going forwards. Within this three hubs have emerged which will enable to delivery of clinical and associated services at scale to keep our population well and out of hospital. Milman Road Health Centre is the lead practice for one of these hubs 'Whitley' which also serves the most deprived areas in Reading. Dr Rabinder Mittal is also the clinical Chair of the Alliance and is a key driver of this initiative.

The existing building is expanding and has merged with the downstairs Milman Road surgery which has increased clinical capacity, however, this has not kept pace with demand. The registered population within South Reading is growing and has increased from ¹128,033 in April 2011 to 139,894 in July 2016. In addition, The CCG is aware of future housing developments in Green Park which will also impact Milman Road Health Centre. Despite this,

Source: ¹Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Reading Borough Council

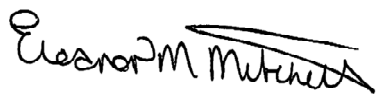
the surgery provides a full range of services to its patient population including additional services outside of core contract such as smoking cessation, healthy living promotions and a Citizen's Advice Bureau stand. This supports the joint Reading Borough Council and CCG Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017/20 of which one priority is: *Supporting people to make healthy lifestyle choices - dental care, reducing obesity, increasing physical activity, reducing smoking*. Further clinic capacity will support a wider range of associated health and social care services, such as social prescribing, which is a programme of work within the Reading Integration Board.

The Berkshire West Accountable Care System (ACS - the combined local health economy) has recently been awarded 'exemplar status' in the refreshed *GP Forward View Next Steps* (published March 2017). One of the work streams within the development of the ACS will review the current configuration of Outpatients with a view to move more clinics into the community, in line with the diabetes model of care. This will ensure that services are 'wrapped around' the patient and release capacity in the hospital. The proposed building work at Milan Road Health Centre will provide additional clinic capacity to support consultant-led clinics in a purpose built building and reduce the need for multiple hospital appointments for patients with multiple chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension. Furthermore, additional clinic space is being configured to allow maximum flexibility to cater for maximum opportunities. Dr Rabinder Mittal is the South Reading clinical lead for the ACS and a key part of these discussions.

The CCG supports any activities and services that will help people keep well and managed in the community and avoid unnecessary attendance to Royal Berkshire Hospital. The CCG is therefore fully supportive of the plans and the approval of these works will provide a key enabler for the delivery of our primary care strategy.

I trust this letter provides suitable assurance to you that the CCG fully supports this proposal and that Reading Borough Council will consider this request from Milman Road Health Centre favourably.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor Mitchell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eleanor Mitchell
Operations Director, NHS South Reading CCG