

NHS North and West Reading CCG

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To: Planning Officer – Reading Borough Council

Re: Letter in support of the intended extension to Western Elms Surgery

I am writing to you on behalf of NHS North & West Reading Clinical Commissioning Group to confirm our strong support for the proposed extension to the Western Elms Surgery.

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 (GP services) 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, North & West 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.

The existing building at the Western Elms Surgery is not able to keep pace with the month on month increase to its registered patient list which currently stands at 17,672. In addition, the CCG is aware of future housing developments planned by Reading Borough Council which will have a further impact on the registered list. Despite this, the surgery provides a full range of services to its patient population including additional services outside of core contract. 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.*

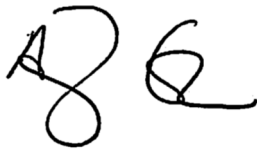
The Berkshire West Accountable Care System (ACS - the combined local health economy) has recently been awarded 'exemplar status' in the refreshed *GP Forward View Next Steps* (published March 2017).

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 from the hospital. The proposed extension will provide additional clinic and training capacity to support consultant-led clinics and reduce the need for multiple hospital appointments for patients with multiple chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension.

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 this extension 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 hope that Reading Borough Council will consider this request from Western Elms Surgery favourably.

Yours faithfully

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

Dr Andy Ciecierski
GP Clinical Lead & Chair, NHS North and West Reading CCG