

CE 24/8/17

Central Medical Practice
42-46 Central Road
Morden
Surrey
SM4 5RT

Chief Executive's Office
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
St Helier Hospital
Wrythe Lane
Carshalton
Surrey
SM5 1AA

Dear Mr Elkeles,

We are writing to express our concern at the current engagement by Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust that we believe could see St Helier Hospital lose major A&E, consultant led maternity, and other crucial acute services. We believe that St Helier Hospital should remain fully open and fully operational on its current site past 2020.

Our practice has nearly 9000 patients, 60% of whom are Tamils and many who are from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Together, we are longstanding residents of the St Helier estate. We believe that our patients, the residents that rely on St Helier as their local hospital, are more likely to require support and healthcare, based in a more deprived neighbourhood, than the residents of Belmont. The local population to St Helier Hospital statistically has considerably more emergency hospital admissions for all causes, a lower life expectancy for both males and females, and a notably higher percentage of residents described as having bad or very bad health than in Belmont. As such, moving acute services from St Helier Hospital to Belmont would, in essence, be taking the services to where health is already far better.

We also believe a loss of acute services at St Helier Hospital would see overwhelming pressure on St George's Hospital. We do not believe that residents in our catchment area will travel to Sutton as they consider themselves to be Londoners and would instead rely on St George's. The distance between Sutton and St George's is too far to help the overwhelming demand faced by St George's, who are already sending patients, including those who need to be seen within 2 weeks, to St Helier Hospital. The consequence of this would be vastly increased pressure on the services provided by St George's Hospital and it is clear to us that St George's simply cannot sustain the further demand that a loss of acute services at St Helier would provide.

We are also aware that similar consultations have been run in the past that have agreed with our above concerns. We do not believe an additional engagement or consultation to be a justifiable use of the health budget and we hope to see a fully operation St Helier Hospital equipped to support the healthcare of our local residents.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of the management and staff at Central Medical Practice