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Mr Chris Hughes
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Winchester City Council
Colebrook Street
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Sent via email: Chughes@winchester.gov.uk
14th November 2019

Dear Chris,

Reference: North Whiteley MDA medical provision

Thank you for your email dated 7th October 2019 requesting further information regarding the decision not to ask the consortium at North Whiteley to provide an additional GP surgery as part of the planning consent for the development. To ensure full transparency I am writing on behalf of the Practice and the CCG as commissioners of the GMS Service for the Whiteley surgery and all other NHS practices in the Fareham area.

Firstly the decision not to request an additional building to provide General Medical Services (GMS) was taken on the basis that the existing surgery servicing the Whiteley population was developed with future population expansion in mind and sized accordingly. The building containing The Whiteley surgery also houses a separate suite of four consulting rooms, two treatment rooms and a reception area, currently known as The Yew Tree Clinic. The building has been designed so that these additional rooms can be incorporated within the Whiteley surgery footprint. This would provide sufficient additional clinical space to cater for the uplift in patient numbers to support the proposed population increase within the North Whiteley development. The CCG would then reimburse the practice for the rental of this space.

The Whiteley surgery would need to recruit additional staff to cater for the medical needs of this new population. This is a practice responsibility, and will be undertaken as the new population arrives. Funding per head of population is available to the practice and this enables the practice to recruit the appropriate health care professionals to service the need of the population as a whole. The way that primary care services are delivered is changing, and services are being provided through a "network" of surgeries. Providing a multidisciplinary team approach ensures that the necessary medical professionals are recruited.

The practice continues to support this development but in order to this will need to increase car parking capacity from its already oversubscribed provision. The parking is required for both patients

and staff to facilitate this growth and a successful bid for developer contributions has been made to facilitate this expansion (as well as the initial incorporation of part of the Yew Tree Clinic consulting room space).

As already identified the existing practice building has accommodation to support the growth in patient numbers, and the practice will need to recruit staff to service the increase in population, it is important to raise the issue of the national shortage in healthcare professionals. It has been widely reported that there is a national shortage to GP's and for a practice to operate in an alternative building ie. a branch surgery arrangement, would require an increase in staffing. Existing surgery staff would also need to be provided from the main surgery to support a new site, diluting the existing workforce. It is important to understand that the Whiteley surgery already operates an urgent on the day appointment service as part of a networking arrangement from Fareham Community Hospital. If it or any other local practice were to operate another site this would be a constraint on practice time and ultimately availability of appointments. Historically the Whiteley surgery had operated services from Locks Road Surgery, however they were able to consolidate (and improve) clinical service provision from the single site in Whiteley, and would see any requirement to provide clinical services from other additional sites as both a retrograde and unsustainable option.

At the time of the original consultation there were only options of the Whiteley surgery or St Lukes surgery (Hedge End/Botley) providing clinical services to the proposed patient population. At the time of the consultation St Lukes were not in the position to expand services. The only other alternative would be the creation of a brand new stand-alone practice with a new contract to provide GMS Services, which may have destabilised both Whiteley and St Lukes practices, and this was not considered a viable solution to the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group, particularly when the Whiteley surgery was able to support this development.

I hope that this articulates our joint CCG and Whiteley surgery rationale when responding to the North Whiteley consultation and our request for developer contributions to support the requirement for additional car parking. For clarity I would reiterate that should we be consulted again regarding this development our response would be the same. If you have any questions arising from this letter please in the first instance direct them to Lisa Medway in my team.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Tiller
Managing Director
Fareham, Gosport and South Eastern Hampshire
Clinical Commissioning Groups