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Imperial College Healthcare welcomes decision to move forward with Shaping a Healthier Future proposals

Proposals will allow Trust to deliver world class healthcare at all its hospitals

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has welcomed the decision by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) to move forward with the plans to reconfigure health services in North West London.

The Trust has worked closely with the Shaping a Healthier Future programme team throughout the development of these proposals, in order to ensure that any changes would reflect the healthcare needs of the local population. The changes will allow the Trust to reorganise the way services are delivered at our hospitals, ensuring our patients benefit from the best possible facilities and most modern medical techniques with access to the highest standards of clinical expertise.

Mark Davies, Chief Executive of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust said:

“This decision is good news for patients and the local community. We strongly believe that the proposed changes to the way our hospitals are organised will enable us to save more lives and deliver the highest standards of care and treatment to all our patients.

“We now look forward to working closely with patients, GPs, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), local authorities and other partners to listen to their views and incorporate their ideas into the overall clinical vision for the Trust. Each of our three main hospital sites – Charing Cross, Hammersmith and St Mary’s – will have a crucial and interconnecting role for the Trust and the communities which we serve.”

“Specifically, we have agreed with NHS North West London to build on the existing plans from Hammersmith & Fulham Council & CCG for Charing Cross and incorporate our vision to develop a broad range of innovative 21st century healthcare

services using the most modern diagnostic and surgical techniques, including the use of robotics.”

Professor Nick Cheshire, Medical Director at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust said;

“We have always fully supported the clinical principles of Shaping a Healthier Future to centralise patient care where necessary and to localise where possible, in order to provide better overall care to our local population.

“I am really excited that we can now move forward with these plans, which will allow the Trust to deliver the very best and most innovative 21st century patient-focused medical care. Concentrating key skills, expertise and facilities at specific sites will allow us to improve the quality of care that patients receive.

“In simple terms this will allow us to save more lives. It also reflects the NHS vision to keep people out of hospitals and treat them at home or in the community where they enjoy the best quality of health and wellbeing.”

Throughout this planning and consultation process, the Trust has worked closely with Imperial College London our Academic Health Science Centre partner. Our support for these proposals has therefore been conditional on the NHS’s commitment to fund any relocation of our existing medical school facilities. This will enable the AHSC to continue to deliver the highest quality of medical training and carry out world class research that can be translated into ground-breaking medical techniques and therapies that will save lives - not just in North West London but across the UK as a whole.

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Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust comprises Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea, St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals. With more than one million patient contacts each year, it is one of the largest acute Trusts in the country and, in partnership with Imperial College London, is the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC). It has an annual turnover of around £950 million.

Imperial College Healthcare is one of eleven NIHR Biomedical Research Centres. This designation is given to the most outstanding NHS and university research partnerships in the country; leaders in scientific translation and early adopters of new insights in technologies, techniques and treatments for improving health. Imperial College Healthcare has some of the lowest mortality rates in the country according to the Dr Foster Guide – an annual, independent report published in December 2012.

Imperial Academic Health Science Centre

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust was created on 1 October 2007, by merging Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and St Mary's NHS Trust. The new Trust and Imperial College London formed a unique partnership and together they became the UK's first AHSC. On 9 March 2009, the Trust and College received official recognition as an AHSC from the UK government. An AHSC is a partnership between a healthcare provider and a university. The vision of the AHSC is to vastly improve the quality of life our patients and populations by taking scientific discoveries and translating them into new therapies and techniques and bringing them into an NHS setting in as quick a timeframe as possible.