

ELLIOT COLBURN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear neighbour,

I am delighted to write and tell you that local NHS leaders have confirmed plans for a new hospital to be built in the borough and to upgrade facilities at St Helier. This represents a **£500 MILLION plan** that will not only **build a brand new state of the art hospital** near to the Royal Marsden in Sutton by 2025, but **ALSO invest AT LEAST £80 MILLION into upgrades at St Helier.**

I was born in St Helier Hospital, my fiancé's life was saved by the amazing staff at St Helier last summer, and having previously worked in the NHS and supported the work of local NHS staff and volunteers, I am delighted that the NHS has confirmed this plan to protect and improve local services, including A&E and Maternity.

The new specialist emergency care hospital, just a few minutes from St Helier, would treat the sickest 15% of patients, those normally arriving by ambulance. This larger specialist team would be available 24 hours a day to diagnose what is wrong with patients more rapidly, start the best treatment faster, and help patients recover more quickly. St Helier and Epsom Hospitals will remain open 24/7, with updated and improved facilities, providing all the other services that they currently do.

With this plan, the refurbished St Helier Hospital is here to stay providing the majority of local health services, and the sickest patients will get state-of-the-art treatment in the brand-new specialist emergency hospital right here in our area.

You can find out more about the plans, including the answers to some frequently asked questions at the NHS' website: www.improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk. You can also contact them at hello@improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk, or get in touch with me with any queries.

Best wishes,

Elliot Colburn MP

Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington

P.S. You can also show your support for our local NHS and sign my Support St Helier petition on my website at www.elliotcolburn.co.uk/sthelier.

Why is this being done?

To improve the care that we receive. As St Helier's buildings continue to age over time, it's necessary to upgrade our healthcare facilities. Patient outcome is the number one priority!

Is St Helier closing?

No, quite the opposite. St Helier is here to stay with a multi-million-pound improvement package.

Is a new hospital being built?

Yes. A new specialist emergency care hospital will be built in Sutton, in addition to improving St Helier hospital.

Is St Helier getting an upgrade?

Yes. At least £80 million of the funding promised will go towards improving the facilities at St Helier hospital.

Serving the people of Carshalton and Wallington

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Who developed these proposals?

For the first time, we have a plan that was developed by local clinicians, not bureaucrats or politicians, who made the plea for funding to deliver this improvement, which has been heard with a £500 million investment. Sutton Council also supported the proposals last year.

Will I have to travel outside my area for services now?

Absolutely not. Unlike previous plans, which involved moving services like A&E and Maternity to Tooting or Croydon, we have the funding to keep all the services the Trust currently provides right here in our area!

Will we still use St Helier?

Yes. From 2025, Epsom hospital, St Helier hospital and the new hospital at Sutton will all have a 24/7 Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) (which is what 2/3 of those who currently go to A&E are treated by). Until that time, all services will remain as they are. Under the plans, 85% of services will remain at St Helier. Epsom and St Helier hospitals will still both have a 24/7 UTC. Common ailments at UTCs include: suspected broken limbs, minor head injuries, cuts and grazes, minor scalds and burns, ear, throat and skin infections, eye problems, vomiting, emergency contraception, and many more.

Diagnostic tests, such as MRI, x-ray or ultrasound, the heart problem diagnosis unit, the dialysis unit, Croft Ward (which takes care of patients who are stable but not ready to leave hospital), the eye care unit, the gastroenterology unit, and so many more services are staying put at Epsom and St Helier hospitals.

What about bed numbers?

The NHS have calculated that they will need the same number of beds as they do now.

What about A&E?

Unlike previous plans, which saw A&E taken away from the area, A&E is now staying right here in our Borough at the new hospital. Most of the time you will still use St Helier for matters requiring immediate medical attention like broken limbs or cuts. Major trauma cases needing a blue light ambulance transfer will be treated down the road at the new state-of-the-art hospital next to The Royal Marsden.

What about maternity services?

Maternity services have also been protected and kept locally. Post-natal and ante-natal care are staying put at Epsom and St Helier hospitals, and births will take place in the brand-new maternity unit at the new hospital down the road at the new hospital by The Royal Marsden. Women need the very best care and facilities when giving birth, and the new plans will provide that.

Where will children services be provided?

Most children will continue to receive care and treatment in the same place as they do now. Care for children who need to stay in hospital overnight – as a result of a serious illness or complex problems – will be treated at the new specialist emergency care hospital. This includes children's surgery.

What will happen until the new hospital in Sutton is built?

All services will continue to be carried out at Epsom and St Helier hospitals until such time the new hospital in Sutton is ready for patients.

Where will the new hospital be built?

Currently plans are in place to build the brand-new specialist emergency care hospital next to the Royal Marsden in Sutton. This will be combined with the necessary infrastructure and transport links to ensure the site of the new hospital is accessible to all that need to use it.

For more facts, and to find out what this multi-million-pound government investment in our local NHS will mean for you and your family, visit the following website: www.improvinghealthcaretogether.org.uk/faq.

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