



**Bristol Health Services Plan  
Breast Care Service Review**

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Ref:

Dear Colleagues

**Breast Care Services Review- recommendation of a preferred location for the hub**

I extremely pleased to be able to write you with news that the Breast Care Services Review project is making good progress.

As you will be aware, the clinical model, referred to as a hub and spoke model, has been agreed by clinicians, patients and managers. In this model, there would be an integrated breast care hub and satellite hub with a strong multi-disciplinary team (MDT) incorporating radiologists, pathologists, breast care nurses, breast surgeons, plastic surgeons and oncologists. The spokes would be located in the community, enabling care to be delivered closer to home, and will see all routine follow-up patients and where possible will be co-located with breast screening services.

All stakeholders have expressed the desire to quickly establish the location of the hub for this model in an open and transparent way based on agreed criteria. The Project Board agreed there were only two possible locations for the hub: the new Southmead Hospital, part of North Bristol NHS Trust and within the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust campus. The option of a stand-alone hub was discounted as being too expensive and not having the support of emergency back-up services if required. It was acknowledged early on that both sites, as acute hospitals, could meet the essential criteria identified for the hub. A process has been undertaken over the past 6 weeks to understand the relative merits of basing the hub on the two sites concerned. This has involved evaluating clinical, patient and public views on the differential criteria identified which were clinical adjacencies that will enhance safety, quality and patient experience; and access for service users.

An independent panel was established and all stakeholders were invited to present their views on the differential criteria, either in person or as a written submission on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. At that meeting the panel was able to confirm that there were two viable options, however, they had a number of outstanding issues to explore. Therefore, they reconvened on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October with a cross section of clinicians from the health community.

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On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October the panel was reassured that the vision for an integrated hub could be delivered from the new Southmead site and should be subjected to a due diligence process to confirm this. The panel came to this opinion based on:

- the strength and unanimity of patient representation;
- the importance of certain clinical adjacencies;
- the confirmation of the ability of the solution to deliver the proposed model to the satisfaction of clinicians.

The Project Board agreed the panel's suggestion at its meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. A due diligence process will now take place to test a number of agreed issues, to ensure the decision is robust.

This recommendation was not made easily or lightly as clearly there are potential benefits from both options available. Of course this decision is about location, as the efficacy and quality of the new service will be derived from fully integrating the clinical expertise of both current Bristol breast teams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clinicians, patients and managers involved in giving their time and demonstrating their strong commitment to the project. I am confident that that we are on our way to achieving our vision of a breast care service at the forefront of breast care practice, development and research and makes best use of available resource.

Yours sincerely



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