



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Richard Samuel, Programme Lead for H&IOW STP
Chief Officer, Fareham & Gosport and South Eastern Hants CCG
Comments Building
Fort Southwick
James Callaghan Drive
Fareham
PO17 6AR

13th October 2016

Dear Richard,

Further to our meeting in Westminster on 15 September, and my subsequent meetings with HHFT and West Hampshire CCG, I have now reviewed the Sustainability and Transformation Plan you gave me.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Hampshire & IOW

You will be aware that, alongside my fellow local MPs, I have taken a very close interest in the STP process. We have met on a number of occasions and I have discussed the emerging plan with HHFT, NHSE, the West Hampshire CCG as well as Hampshire County Council, the South Downs National Park Authority and even the Environment Agency.

At every stage, I have made the case that a future proofed plan (and certainly one that is sustainable) must have at its heart the projected population growth in North and Mid Hampshire over the next two decades. Winchester District alone has a signed off Local Plan that will bring more than 12,000 new homes and that is dwarfed by proposals being brought forward by Basingstoke & Deane Council.

Please correct me if I am wrong but I cannot see any implicit recognition of this fact in the draft STP you gave me and that is of huge concern, not least as you embark on this final acute services review. The local NHS needs to be sure it has the capacity, at the best possible value to taxpayers, not just for now but for the next 20 years.

Secondly, I understand the STP is to be finalised for publication on 21 October, after which time I presume, constituents will get their chance to read it. I would be grateful for a steer from you – well in advance – as to the media handling strategy you plan for this period and how the public might access it thereafter.

13 October 2016



Steve Brine MP

Winchester & Chandler's Ford

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Transforming acute services 'final' review

By far the greatest area of interest to many of my constituents in the STP will be the future of acute and emergency services in North and Mid Hampshire so it is regrettable to say the least there has been further delay in this area and the STP will include no definite statement on such.

A decision around HHFT's proposed Critical Treatment Hospital (CTH) seems as far away as ever but I am encouraged by a 'final' review to be undertaken with NHSE and NHSi alongside HHFT and the two CCGs.

Both Mary Edwards and Heather Hauschild have outlined for me the agreed specification of this piece of work and I now have a copy of the aims of the review. I am led to believe all parties have agreed to proceed on – and be bound by – the outcome of this review but would appreciate your confirmation of this.

Either way, I am sure I don't need to remind you any reconfiguration of this scale (involving major change to acute services) would be subject to full public consultation in the usual way and I, as I have done for more than six years now, will seek to engage as many of my constituents as possible in that.

Equally, while MPs and our constituents are not bound by the outcome recommended by the preview programme board, I think there has to be a way for us to input around the three published options. How do you envisage local MPs being part of that?

Secondly, you will be aware I have in the past held open meetings for constituents in Winchester under the banner ASKtheNHS. You can see details of previous events via www.stevebrine.com/asktheseries

As I said to you on the phone last month, I am minded to organise a further such event in November 2016 (to ensure public transparency to the final acute services review and consider on some other aspects of the STP) and would obviously need you to be present.

Given my understanding, pending your confirmation as per my question above, that the local NHS plans to move forward *together* on the outcome of this review I am sure you can see the importance of such engagement before a decision is reached.

Finally on this, I presume you have now appointed your independent evaluation supplier for this review and know local MPs would appreciate details of such.

Scope of the review

I understand from the aims of the review that NHCCG, WHCCG and HHFT wish to explore the viability of three options thus;

- Do minimal
- Building of CTH on Greenfield site
- Moving acute services from Winchester to either Basingstoke or UHS

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As I have said to you before, and have said clearly in public, I do not believe my constituents in Winchester (let alone in Chandler's Ford or south of the city) can accept the wholesale removal of acute services (especially consultant-led maternity services) to Basingstoke. Given 'public acceptability' is, rightly, one point to consider in your review evaluation process I know you will take this very seriously.

My views on a CTH are not new and have not changed. I can see great merit in a new facility and have discussed at length with HHFT and local medics the clinical case for such a reconfiguration.

It would certainly require a huge leap of faith on the part of my constituents but we would be foolish to point-blank refuse to consider the benefits of a brand new world-class hospital in mid-Hampshire with the impact that could have on outcomes and the professional standing (including the ability of HHFT to recruit the brightest and best to our area) of NHS services here.

For my part, I am very interested in the 'do minimal' option which I understand would see acute services such as obstetrics and emergency care retained at Winchester. It is the first time in a long time I have heard this scenario discussed by the local NHS and it is very welcome. I hope it's a genuine option and not simply in there to 'balance' the options being considered by the review?

Equally, I hope the programme board will realistically consider the recruitment and retention challenges of such an outcome. Above all, I want hospital services in my constituency, and serving my constituency, to have some long-term certainty for the first time in many years. We deserve that and a sustainability plan has a duty to deliver it.

You know that I spend a lot of time talking to clinicians locally, understanding the local health economy to the best of my ability. Just this month I was at the RHCH with Mary Edwards meeting senior medical and management staff and hearing their views. They all, above anything else, want this certainty so they can get on with their work serving the people of Winchester and wider North/Mid Hampshire.

I know you will take seriously the issues I have raised in this letter and look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Brine MP

13 October 2016

