

Member Question received from Cllr Alex Crawford (Aldershot North Division):
Hampshire County Council

Question 1:

“I would ask what communication there has been with Government on the status of the proposal for a new Frimley Park Hospital?”

Answer to Question 1: Provided by Frimley NHS Foundation Trust:

“The Trust is working closely with national and regional partners to understand more about what, if anything, the recently announced government review might mean for our new hospital programme.

Meanwhile we are in regular communication with the national new hospital programme, where there is a set assurance process that we follow when reporting back on our status and progress for a new Frimley Park Hospital.

There is an allocated scheme lead from the national team who is our key point of contact and advises, supports and challenges our decision making to ensure we’re on the right track.

There is also a portfolio lead who continuously links in with our Senior Responsible Officer and there are regular Programme Director calls with the national new hospital programme. The national NHS England team are fully involved and supportive of the need for our new hospital as well.

The Trust's new hospital SRO raised the importance of a new hospital to address the significant RAAC issues with the Secretary of State for Health when he visited Heatherwood Hospital, another Frimley Health run hospital, in August. Local MPs have also informed us of their recent or planned contact with Government Ministers since the Chancellor announced the need to review the national programme”.

Question 2:

“Should your Frimley JHOSC be consulting with MPs for the area (such as Alex Baker MP for Aldershot, who has NHS services as one of her top priorities)?”

Answer to Question 2: Provided by the JHOSC Chair, Cllr Trefor Hogg:

“Thank you for your question which is very relevant. The Members of the JHOSC will I am sure be taking every opportunity to work with their MPs to make the need for the new hospital very clear and seek the best possible support from them for the project. As Chair of the JHOSC I have already met with Dr Pinkerton the MP for

Surrey Heath, and we have discussed our common view that it is imperative the Frimley Park replacement project is successful. I understand that Dr Pinkerton has also discussed the project with the Secretary of State.”

Member Questions received from Cllr Steve Forster (HART): Hampshire County Council

Question 1:

“What can be done by the ICB to improve access to urgent care - could Fleet Community Hospital be invested in and used as an urgent care hub?”

Answer to Question 1: Provided by Frimley NHS Foundation Trust:

“Fleet Hospital is a key part of our planned care estate infrastructure. It currently houses a wide range of services supporting local people.

In terms of urgent care, NHS Frimley, working in partnership with FHFT is focused on several key areas to enhance urgent care access at sites across the Frimley geography:

1. Streamlining Emergency Department (ED) Operations:
 - o Improving management and control in emergency departments, including better coordination and faster decision-making.
 - o Implementing strategies to ensure patients are seen and treated quickly, particularly in critical areas like paediatric and minor injuries.
2. Optimising the First 72 Hours of Care:
 - o Enhancing access to specialised services quickly, ensuring patients get the care they need within the first 72 hours of admission.
 - o Improving the use of assessment units and specialised medical teams to provide efficient care.
3. Daily Monitoring and Operations:
 - o Keeping a close watch on patient flow and bed availability to ensure the system operates smoothly each day.
 - o Using technology to track and manage discharges, helping free up beds for new patients.
4. Supporting Timely Discharge:

- o Standardising processes to ensure that patients are discharged as soon as they are medically ready, which helps improve bed availability.

- o Focusing on reducing unnecessary delays in patient care, which contributes to quicker discharges.

5. Maximising Use of Out-of-Hospital Resources:

- o Ensuring urgent care centres are fully utilised to reduce pressure on emergency departments.

- o Redirecting patients from emergency departments via 111 to appropriate alternatives, if their condition allows.

By focusing on these areas, we aim to improve the overall performance of urgent care services, ensuring that patients receive timely and appropriate care. These efforts are expected to result in better access, reduced waiting times, and more efficient use of healthcare resources.”

Question 2:

“Also, what will the ICB do to work (and help fund) with the bus companies to provide a scheduled and timely bus service from the main centres in Hart - particularly Fleet and Church Crookham - to the hospital for staff and patients. This would have sustainability, traffic, parking, employment, and social benefit. Will a new location take into account non private car transport from Fleet and CC?”

Answer to Question 2: Provided by Frimley NHS Foundation Trust:

“NHS Frimley is committed to ensuring that the needs of our communities are thoroughly considered in the planning of the new hospital. While NHS Frimley does not have the statutory authority to directly fund bus routes, we recognise the importance of accessible and sustainable transport options, particularly for staff and patients traveling from key areas such as Fleet and Church Crookham.

As a key partner in this initiative, we will work closely with the Frimley Health Foundation Trust, the New Hospital Programme Team, and local government authorities to ensure that transportation needs are addressed. This collaboration will focus on ensuring that road access, parking, and public transport routes are carefully considered and integrated into the planning process for the new hospital site.

At this early stage, we cannot provide specific details, but please be assured that the assessments to date have considered existing bus routes servicing the preferred sites and issues raised, including sustainability, traffic management, parking, and social benefits, are key to our planning and site selection process. We are committed

to engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, including bus companies, staff, patients, and the public, to gather input and ensure that these factors are appropriately addressed as the project progresses.”

Member Question received from Cllr Caroline Egglestone: Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Question 1:

“How many of the extra beds will be acute?”

Answer to Question 1: Provided by Frimley NHS Foundation Trust:

“The exact number of beds required in the new hospital is under review with support from the national programme team. Our planning includes comprehensive demand and capacity modelling, working closely with the national team and considering the growth in demand and where care is best provided to meet the needs of patients. There will be an increase in beds within the acute hospital but we are not yet in a position to provide the exact number. The number of beds within the acute hospital will be available when our Strategic Outline Case (SOC) is finalised.”

Chairman of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Trefor Hogg