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Our Ref: AC/JW

30 March 2023

Cllr Andy Smith
Chairman
Lighthorne Parish Council

Dear Cllr Smith

Re: Temporary Health facility at Upper Lighthorne

Thank you for your letter of 14th March regarding a temporary facility at Upper Lighthorne. As you will recall this was discussed at the working group meeting, where we explained the capacity in the current estate and why we do not consider a temporary facility necessary before the new permanent facility is scheduled to be built. I thought it would be useful to explain the rationale for that in depth.


You refer to the new primary care facility development being completed in 2027. This is a “long stop” date and related to when we expect to receive Section 106 payments. As you will be aware, development of projects is a long and complicated process with many variables, some of which are controllable, some of which are not. We are hopeful that this timeline may be shortened if the building work exceeds its schedule and will be able to respond if that looks likely to happen, however until we have that indication we will adhere to the currently projected dates.

We have been aware of the need for further capacity in the area and have already invested in and taken actions to create more in the local system. As we discussed, the NHS invested significant funds in developing Hastings House and its branch Surgery, which were used to increase their premise size and physical capacity to see up to an additional c5,000 patients. Although other local surgeries are currently closer to capacity it is important to note that the increase in digital appointments and other changes to how primary care is delivered means that they will also have some flexibility to take on new patients.

With this in mind, I do want to be clear that our stance remains that the ICB does not support a temporary facility at Upper Lighthorne. I hope this explanation helps to clarify the current available capacity in the health system to cater for the population increase that will occur before a new Upper Lighthorne facility is built and reassures you that the new populations at Upper Lighthorne will be able to access GP services, without causing undue pressure within the system.


Cont/d...

Chief Executive – Philip Johns
Chair – Danielle Oum



We are continuing with the procurement process to identify the practice for the permanent facility as we discussed and will issue updates on the progress where it is possible to do so.

Best regards,



Alison Cartwright
Chief Delivery and Performance Officer
Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board

Copy to: Sir Jeremy Wright, MP; Tony Perks, SDC; Tony Horton, SDC; Emily Napier, SDC; Hannah Heath, SDC; Carol Roberts, SDC; Dominika Stockham, WCC; Cllr Margaret Bell, WCC; Cllr Chris Mills, SDC/WCC; Cllr Jacqui Harris, SDC; Cllr Zoe Dandridge-Brown, ULPC; Will Martin, CEG; Ragu Sittambalam, Homes England; Tim Sacks, ICB; Neil McElduff, ICB; Rose Uwins, ICB.

Accountable Officer – Phillip Johns
Chair – Danielle Oum