

## Cheryl Hardman

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**From:** Simon and Diane Pearson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 16:47  
**To:** Cheryl Hardman  
**Cc:** Roderick Allison; CLARKSON, Kevin (CAVERSHAM GROUP PRACTICE); Mick Farrant; Simon Pearson  
**Subject:** Re: Deputation Monday 18 December

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Cheryl

The previous statement (below) from Roderick Allison is additional information/ views of the PPG which we will refer to on Monday.

Please add Simon Pearson to the list of attendees.

Kind regards

Diane

### POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF SECONDARY CARE DIALYSIS UNIT FROM ST PANCRAS HOSPITAL TO PECKWATER CENTRE

#### Views of Caversham Patients' Participation Group

As part of the redevelopment of the St Pancras Hospital site, the Caversham Group Practice Patients' Participation Group understands there is a plan to move existing community services out of the Peckwater Centre so as to develop that Centre as a home for the secondary care dialysis unit currently located in the Hospital.

The Peckwater Centre - which adjoins the Caversham Group Practice - is a purpose-built primary care hub, provided to meet the needs of the residents of Camden. The services currently provided from it are

- Memory Service
- Wheelchair services
- Physiotherapy
- Childhood immunisations
- Community Mental Health services
- Acute Mental Assessment Unit
- Administrative support for Podiatry service

It is proposed that these services should be moved to Kentish Town Health Centre or dispersed across the borough.

But the Kentish Town Health Centre has limited capacity to absorb these services, and it has no capacity for their growth.

This raises several issues and concerns for the Caversham Patients' Participation Group, and for the wider Camden community.

1. Transforming the Peckwater Centre into a site for secondary care massively reduces the physical space available in Kentish Town and the Borough of Camden for primary care services and for the growth of these services in the future. As noted above, the Peckwater Centre is a purpose-built primary care hub. The growth of primary care to support preventative medicine is an essential aspect of the long-term NHS plan. This proposal looks as if it is ignoring that goal - indeed running directly contrary to it.
2. The desired trajectory of growth in the NHS is to co-locate primary care and community services. The initiation and development of the Integrated Care System was specifically intended to strengthen health and social care collaboration, and is succeeding in this. Co-location is what patients want, to save them from having to trek round from one service to another. By making access to different services easier, particularly for those with any form of disability, it furthers the important objective of reducing health inequalities. Removing the Peckwater Centre from the primary care physical footprint seems again to be running directly contrary to these aims - especially when the Centre's primary care services are to be relocated to somewhere smaller with not enough room for their growth.
3. How does the removal of primary care services from the Peckwater Centre fit with the Borough's Neighbourhood Plan and other local regeneration plans such as Regis Road development, Gospel Oak Vision etc? Integrated thought and action between the NHS and local government is essential if we are to develop our space to meet the needs of those who live and work here.
4. How have the communities that will be affected been actively engaged in the consultation process? We are aware of the St Pancras Hospital Consultation website but it says nothing about the future location of the dialysis unit, let alone the effect this will have on other parts of the healthcare system. We have attended one of the Consultation meetings but those answering questions were completely uninformed, and unconcerned, about the relocation of the dialysis unit. We feel that the consultation process has given no opportunity to raise concerns about this issue.
5. The reasons for choosing the Peckwater Centre rather than other possible sites have not been explained, and a Freedom of Information request for the Options Assessment has had no reply as yet. We believe there are other suitable sites in the area. The Practice would be happy to be involved in discussions about possible alternatives. Those making the decision must come clean - which they have not done so far - about their cost analyses and their reasons for focusing on the Peckwater Centre, The failure to do so is bound to create suspicion that they wish simply to find the cheapest and easiest solution for the dialysis unit, without giving any consideration to the effects on the primary care system or on the wider interests of the community as a whole.
6. Turning to the effects on the Caversham Group Practice, which as noted adjoins the Peckwater Centre, we wish to understand the impact on the Practice of the building work to adapt the Centre into a dialysis unit. How long will it take? What disruption will patients experience? What measures will be taken to support those with special access needs?
7. We specifically wish to understand the impact on the Caversham's Listening Space Garden, a therapeutic space developed by the Practice's Social Prescribing unit which is very important to patients - particularly those with mental health problems, who find it very beneficial to meet in this calm, quiet place - and for social prescribing purposes. It is used as a hub where community groups and patients (including a Gardening Group) communicate and socialise. Will it remain intact?

30.11.2023

On Thu, 14 Dec 2023 at 16:19, Cheryl Hardman <[Cheryl.Hardman@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Cheryl.Hardman@camden.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear Diane