



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS



Leader's Office

Ealing Council
Town Hall
New Broadway
London W5 2BY

Direct Line: 020 8825 6833
Mobile: 07903 424 905
email: julian.bell@ealing.gov.uk

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Dear Secretary of State,

On 4 April 2017, Ealing Council passed by a substantial majority a motion re-affirming the commitment of the borough to campaigning against proposals under the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North West London and the Shaping A Healthier Future proposals that would result in Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals ceasing to be district general hospitals and their A&E services replaced with the equivalent of urgent care centres.

In recent months, the NHS has confirmed to Ealing Council that the STP proposals would see the number of beds at Ealing Hospital reduced from 288 to just 50, a cut of more than 80%. Meanwhile, Charing Cross, in neighbouring Hammersmith and Fulham and relied on by many Ealing residents, will lose 336 of its 360 in-patient beds, a 93% cut. With the STP overall proposing a reduction of 500 beds across the whole of North West London, this means that hospitals that Ealing residents rely on will see the bulk of those cuts. With potentially no surgery, no critical care, no acute beds, no blue-light ambulance provision, no maternity unit and no children's ward, it is unlikely that any resident would recognise the 50-bed provision that will remain at Ealing or the 24-bed provision at Charing Cross as 'hospitals'.

You have previously made commitments in the House of Commons that both Ealing and Charing Cross Hospitals will retain full A&E services. We do not believe that the proposals in the STP meet those commitments. Ealing has already seen significant reductions in local hospital services, including the closure of the maternity unit, the children's ward and A&E at Ealing Hospital and the loss of A&Es at Central Middlesex and Hammersmith. Local hospitals are feeling the strain of both cost pressures and a growing population, with all four NHS trusts covering North West London failing to meet the 95% target for A&E waiting times this winter, with some of the worst waiting time figures in the country. The removal of the vast majority of clinical services from both Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals will make this situation worse.

In the light of the serious, on-going performance issues at local hospitals, the pressures of a rapidly growing population locally and the overwhelming public opposition locally to these proposals, we would urge you to reject those sections of the North West London STP which impact on hospital provision in Ealing and neighbouring boroughs.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Julian Bell
Leader, London Borough of Ealing

Cllr Gary Malcolm
Liberal Democrat leader, London Borough of Ealing

