

Supporting the development of the new Cancer building at our local Hospital

September 2023

New Cancer Centre Engagement Workshop

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove would like to extend our warmest thanks John Gough, one of dedicated volunteers, for attending this event and sharing his feedback., and also to the staff at University Sussex Hospitals Trust for inviting Healthwatch to attend this event

Introduction

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove (Healthwatch) work closely with University Sussex Hospitals Trust (UHSx). We are in regular contact with their Director and Deputy Director of Patient Experience, Engagement and Involvement, and we were invited to attend a New Cancer Centre Engagement Workshop on 11th September 2023 held at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Background

The new Cancer Centre is part of the Trust's "3T's development" (the Ts stand for = Trauma, Tertiary, Training), which forms Stage 2 of the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Royal Sussex County Hospital into a truly world class hospital. Stage 1 was the [Louise Martindale Building](#), which opened in June 2023. The existing Barry Building, which was built in 1828, will now be demolished so that the Cancer Centre can be built. More information about the redevelopment is available [here](#)

Healthwatch previously carried an and Enter and View of the existing Cancer Centre in 2017 and found relatively few issues with the environment, although we did note that lighting could be improved and the overall atmosphere was a bit drab.

We wanted to use this opportunity to learn more about the plans for the new Centre and enquire about:

1. The ease of moving round the new building (signage)
2. Overall accessibility
3. The expected facilities that will be available
4. The parking offer for patients
5. Whether the new Centre would increase patient capacity
6. Plans for the overall environment.

On the day

This was an informal day with up to 20 people. There was a presentation about the plans for the new Cancer Centre.

What we learned

- The Cancer Centre will be solely for Cancer diagnostics, treatment, Cancer Outpatient services (OPD), Counselling and training.
- There is estimated to be a net gain of 150 beds compared to the current building.
- The completion date is scheduled to be end of 2026 and will cost £155 million.
- A business case is being submitted to NHS England for approval prior to work commencing.

The outline design plans

- There will be a drop off point for the Centre entrance and underground car parking for up to 100 cars (exact number still to be confirmed).

Level 1:

- An Entrance Atrium will incorporate extensive use of light and space.
- Radiotherapy and Scan units will be on same floor.
- The Outpatient Department will incorporate the outdoor spaces in its design.

Level 2:

- Will house Haematology and Oncology Outpatient Department.
- All rooms will incorporate natural light and will be multifunctional to include quiet spaces and counselling areas.

Level 3:

- This will house the Plant Room, which is a dedicated space for the building's logistics.
- It is also proposed to have a [MacMillan Horizon Centre](#) presence in the new Centre as it will be further away than the current cancer centre to the Horizon Centre. This is still in planning.

Level 4:

- This will house Haematology and Oncology Wards.
- The design is for single en suite rooms but it is understood that there will be a balance between social and private treatment areas.

Level 5:

- This will house Haematology and the Oncology Day Unit and Assessment Unit.
- There will be up to 45 spaces and it will have a facility which means that staff can call a Team up from Accident and Emergency (A&E) to conduct patient assessments if the situation demands it, rather than the patient having to go to A&E initially.

A further meeting will take place in October to answer any outstanding questions, and to provide a physical tour to highlight the proposed building concepts which had been outlined. Healthwatch plans to join this further session.

If you have any questions about this visit, or wish to share your own story of the current Cancer Centre – good or bad – with us, then please let us know by contacting office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk.

Proposed design of the new building

