

**Item 20.2:** Appendix A - Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Position Statement

**Position statement**

The Health and Care Partnership strongly supports the upcoming public consultation on improving access to cancer treatment at MVCC. We believe that addressing the current access issues is essential for providing equitable and high-quality cancer care. Our position is based on the following:

- The need for local provision of radiotherapy services to reduce travel burdens and associated challenges for patients including treatment compliance.
- The importance of timely decision-making on capital funding to prevent further delays and health inequalities, particularly for Luton residents.

We have considered the consultation proposals and their implications for BLMK, including opportunities to localise care, our radiotherapy provision approach, and links to regional cancer programmes.

Cancer care should be designed and delivered around the needs, preferences, and lived experiences of patients. The configuration of care pathways must not limit where care is accessed or delivered; instead, they should support flexibility and responsiveness to what matters most to patients. Delivering care closer to home must be a core principle underpinning any service model or commissioning decision.

In conclusion:

1. The Health and Care Partnership, supports the public consultation on the re-provision of Mount Vernon as an important strategic development for the system.
2. Given the evidence around population growth and health inequalities in Luton and in parts of Central Bedfordshire, we strongly support the proposal for Networked (satellite) radiotherapy at Bedfordshire Hospitals on the L&D site.
3. We are keen to further develop and implement models of care that support care closer to home, such as local supportive care, blood tests and chemotherapy at home.
4. Recognise the need to address the identified inequalities in cancer care in Luton by ensuring better provision of specialist oncology services and treatments.
5. We would like to consider moving forward sooner with satellite radiotherapy if there is the opportunity to do so in the interest of our residents and improving cancer outcomes in BLMK.

These recommendations will improve access to radiotherapy, reduce health inequalities, and enhance the overall quality of cancer care in the BLMK area.