

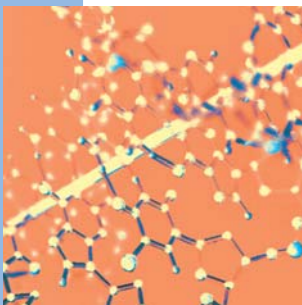


A proposal to create the UK's first  
**ACADEMIC HEALTH  
SCIENCE CENTRE**

This document is intended for interested parties  
during the period of consultation

**SUMMARY DOCUMENT**

1 May to 31 July 2007



## A letter from the Chairmen and Rector

World-class healthcare for our patients through excellence in research, education and training is the goal for Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, Imperial College London and St Mary's NHS Trust.

We invite you to make your views known on our proposal to create an Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) through the merger of the two NHS Trusts and integration with the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London.

We are convinced that an AHSC will best respond to patient needs and the changing NHS, strengthen and build on existing partnerships with the local community and work more effectively to improve the health of the community. This proposal is about three organisations working with the whole community to establish a world-class healthcare system for local people.

Both Trusts are in the top three hospitals in the country for their quality of care, clinical excellence and safety, and the *Times Higher Education Supplement's* 2006 university rankings placed Imperial College fourth in the world for biomedicine and ninth in the world overall. We wish to continue this outstanding record of success and set a new standard in healthcare for the people of west London and beyond. We ask for your support for a concept that has already captured the imagination of so many people, and has the potential to attract the world's best doctors, nurses, researchers, academics and health professionals to this part of London.

The Secretary of State for Health will welcome any comments you submit in response to this consultation on the creation of an AHSC, and will take them into account when making a decision whether to allow us to proceed.

*Tom Legg*      *Richard B Sykes*      *Joan Hanham*

Sir Thomas Legg, Chairman of Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust

Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College London

Baroness Joan Hanham, Chairman of St Mary's NHS Trust

## About this consultation

We would like you to help us create a world-class facility for London, so we welcome your ideas, your concerns, your support and comments.

### Who?

The consultation is being conducted by the two Trusts and Imperial College London. It offers everyone the chance to influence the proposal and the Secretary of State's decision to accept or reject it.

### When?

The consultation period will run from 1 May to 31 July 2007. During this period we will be asking everyone with an interest, including staff, patients, students, researchers, partner organisations and the public, for their views.

Subject to this consultation, the two Trusts plan to merge in October 2007. At the same time there will be executive integration with Imperial College through the appointment of a Board combining all three partners and integrated leadership. In 2008 Imperial College London would then sponsor an application for the AHSC to become an Academic Foundation Trust. This application would be subject to a separate consultation.

### How?

To receive the full consultation brochure, request further information or to make your views known on this exciting proposal you can:

#### a) Contact the AHSC Office by:

- Phone: 020 8237 2018
- Post: AHSC, 2nd Floor, Education Centre, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London. W6 8RF
- Email: [ahscprogrammeoffice@hhnt.nhs.uk](mailto:ahscprogrammeoffice@hhnt.nhs.uk)

#### b) Contact the independent advisers: Verve Communications, by

- Post: FREEPOST AHSC
- Email: [ahsc@vervecommunications.co.uk](mailto:ahsc@vervecommunications.co.uk)
- Freephone: 0800 043 73 63

#### c) Attend one of the public meetings which will be held during the consultation period.

- 6 June at the Irish Centre, Hammersmith (100m from Hammersmith Broadway)
- 20 June at Tuke Hall, Regent's College, Regent's Park

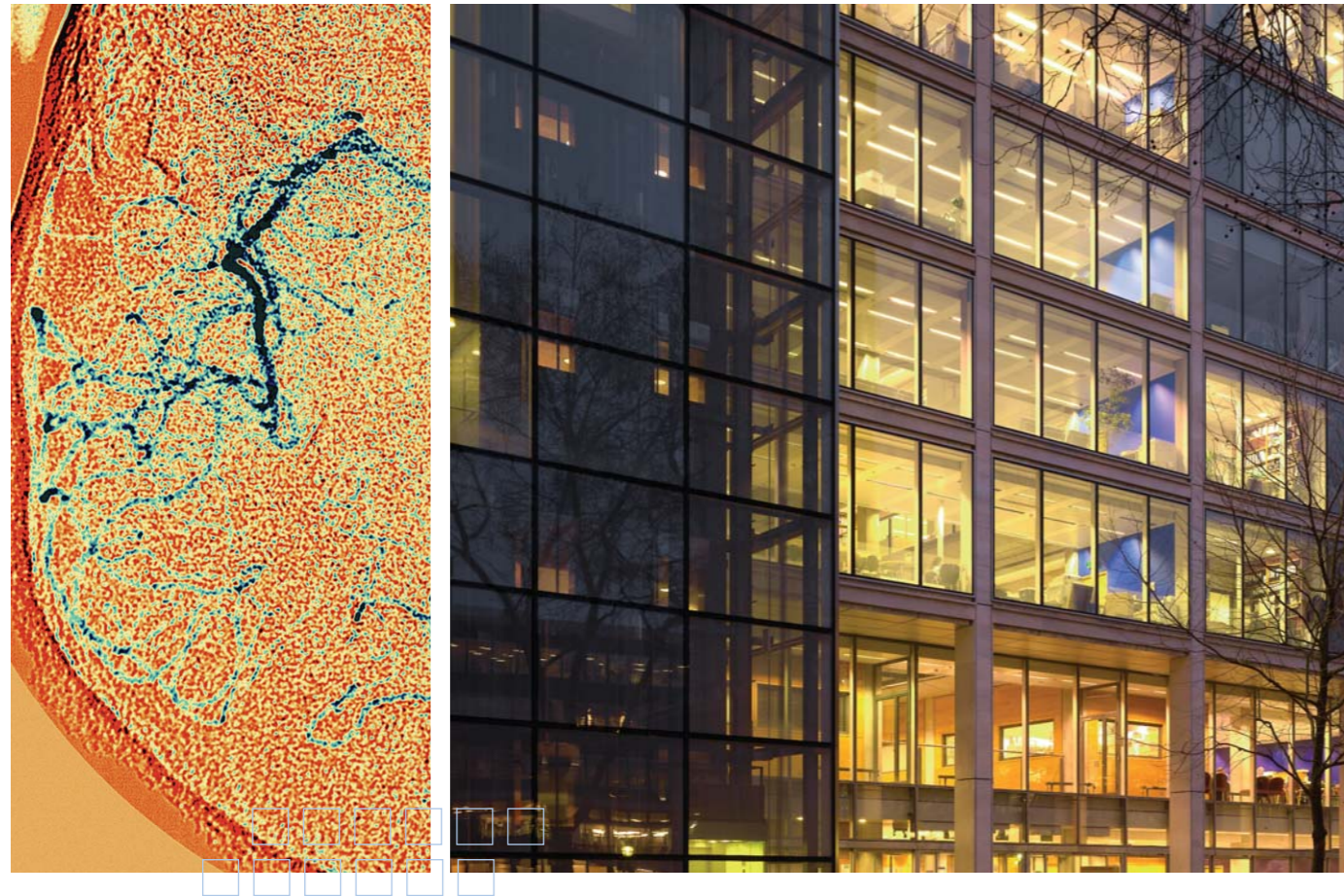
Please contact the Verve Communications office to register your interest in attending one of these meetings so that we can ensure appropriate facilities.

Dates, times and venues for other meetings will be listed on the website or you can telephone the AHSC office.

#### d) Visit the consultation website at [www.ahsc.org.uk](http://www.ahsc.org.uk)

All comments should be returned by 31 July 2007.

# The case for change: Bringing the best in the world to west london



The two Trusts and Imperial College London have a long and very successful record of cooperation. Since autumn 2005, the partners have been reviewing how best to meet the huge challenges and opportunities facing the NHS. In a fast-paced environment it is difficult to ensure all these opportunities are fully exploited and lead to improved patient healthcare.

*The Case for Change*, a first stage review recently published on behalf of NHS London, identifies eight reasons why there needs to be change in London's healthcare:

## 1 The need to improve Londoners' health

We need to tackle the lifestyle factors that put people at risk of poor health and focus on health challenges such as HIV, tobacco use and childhood obesity.

## 2 The NHS is not meeting expectations

Ensure patients have the best clinical care and the widest possible range of services. We need to ensure they have clean, pleasant, infection-free environments; short waiting times; and they are treated with respect.

## 3 One city, but big inequalities in care

Patients want easier access to care, for instance in their local community; excellent care wherever they go for treatment; and good, clear, simple information to make smart choices.

## 4 Hospital is not always the answer

Medical advances mean that more care can be provided locally than ever before, for instance by GPs and specialist nurses.

## 5 The need for more specialised care

We need to ensure we can develop, and take advantage of, exciting clinical and technical advancements. There needs to be a concentration of expertise in centres of excellence with enough patients being treated by each specialty to ensure the service provides the best quality care.

## 6 London should be at the cutting edge of medicine

Other countries are competing for limited global research funds. Large centres of excellence that prove they are improving patient care with world-class research will receive the largest funds.

## 7 Not using our assets effectively

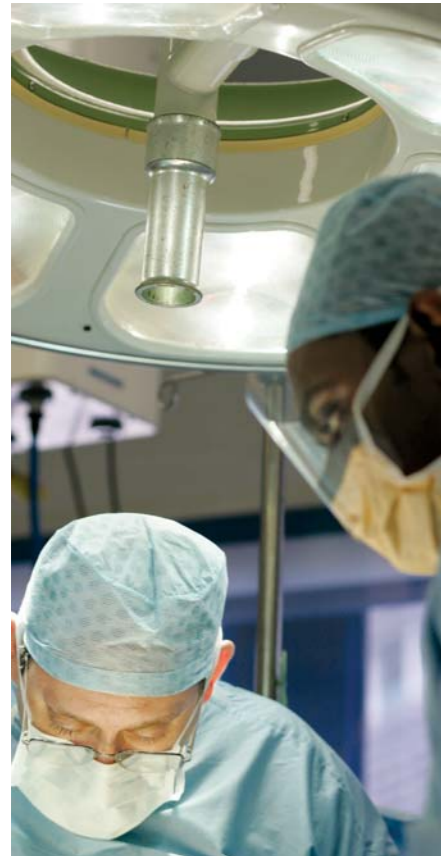
New legislation and ways of working are increasing demands on employers. We can, and should, reduce unnecessary duplication of effort. We need to make better use of staff expertise, buildings, beds and equipment to provide responsive care for patients and top quality training.

## 8 Making the best use of taxpayers' money

Pay modernisation, inflation and the rising cost of drugs and treatments means that, although the Trusts have been extremely effective at increasing efficiency, we need to find savings of £30 million a year just to provide the same level of service.

For more information please visit [www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk)

# A healthcare system for the 21st century: The proposal



By **bringing together the delivery of healthcare services, teaching and research** in a strong partnership, patients will receive healthcare from the world's best professionals, equipped with knowledge of the latest advances in treatment, using state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

**Working in partnership** with local, national and international organisations and professionals we can set a new standard for healthcare in the UK and provide patients in west London access to a truly world-class service.

The AHSC will **support more care in the community** as we develop closer links to primary care, and encourage health promotion and prevention. We will foster learning and the transfer of knowledge on effective means to improve the health of the population.

By working together the world's most gifted researchers, academics and

healthcare professionals will be able to focus on **creating new life-saving treatments, diagnostics and therapies quicker than ever before** - saving and improving the lives of local people before benefiting patients around the world.

The new organisation will **continue to deliver and improve acute, general and specialist hospital services across a wide range of specialties**, to the west London population and beyond. **There are currently no plans to close any A&E department, service or any hospital site.** Any future service changes would be the subject of full and open discussions, and of formal consultation and scrutiny as required under NHS regulations.

This proposal is not about building a new hospital (although we believe it will make it easier to invest in new buildings and facilities) but it is about using staff expertise to lay the foundations of a world-class healthcare system fit for the 21st century.

# A focus on patients: The benefits



- **More seamless and accessible services dedicated to the patient.** We want people to access more services closer to home, for instance in health centres. We want to support health professionals working in the community, better coordinate emergency care provided by a range of organisations and work with others to support patients when they are discharged from hospital.
- **The very latest treatments and technologies brought to patients' bedsides** by commissioning research in a coordinated way which avoids duplication and ensures effective new treatments and techniques are introduced safely and quickly.
- The partner organisations already employ many of the best clinicians and researchers in their field. **The reputation of the AHSC will act as a magnet for the world's best staff.**

- **Better quality care.** Centres of excellence will bring together a range of professionals with enough patients being treated by each specialty to ensure the service provides the best quality care.
- **Putting patients first.** We want to meet and exceed patient expectations. For instance, more convenient appointment times, better information, more choice and a greater range of specialists available to treat routine and complex conditions.
- **Greater efficiency**, which will allow us to invest in frontline services.



- **Staff will benefit** from working with the best clinicians and researchers and enjoy a wider range of career development, promotion and training opportunities in a larger, more diverse organisation.
- **Students will benefit** from the greater focus on an academic environment, exposure to a broader range of clinical areas and the stronger links between teaching, research and medical practice.
- **The AHSC will attract investment, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and new jobs to the area**, offering a welcome boost to the local economy.
- **Making things simpler.** Patients, Primary Care Trusts, voluntary organisations, local authorities and anyone dealing with the AHSC will find that it is far easier to work with a strong partnership.

If you do not understand this document we can arrange an interpreter.  
Please call the number below to request this.

Në goftë se nuk e kuptoni këtë fletpalosje, ne mund t'ju sigurojmë përkthyes.  
Për ta kërkuar një gjë të tillë, ju lutemi telefononi në numrin e mëposhtëm.

Si vous avez des difficultés à comprendre ce livret, nous pouvons vous fournir un interprète. Veuillez appeler le numéro ci-dessous.

Se você não entender este folheto, podemos providenciar um intérprete.  
Favor telefonar para o número abaixo para solicitar este serviço.

Si no entiende este folleto podemos facilitarle el acceso a un intérprete.  
Para solicitar este servicio, llame por teléfono al número que aparece abajo.

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чтобы запросить этого.

Tel: 020 7886 7777  
Fax: 020 7886 1753  
Email: PALS@St-Marys.nhs.uk

This document can be provided on request in large print, on CD or tape, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please contact the AHSC Office for more information.

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[www.hhnt.nhs.uk](http://www.hhnt.nhs.uk)  
[www.imperial.ac.uk](http://www.imperial.ac.uk)  
[www.st-marys.nhs.uk](http://www.st-marys.nhs.uk)

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