**Evelina London and our proposal to become the children’s cancer Principal Treatment Centre for south London**

**and much of south east England**

1. **Background**

NHS England is running a public consultation into the future location of very specialist children’s cancer treatment services for our region. To provide the very best care for children with cancer aged between one and 15, specialist children’s cancer services currently provided by the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust need to move to be on the same site as a children’s intensive care unit. Evelina London is the preferred provider at this stage in the process.

The consultation closes on Monday 18 December 2023, and we really hope you will take the time to respond. It is vital that NHS England hears from a wide range of people who care about the future of these important, highly specialised children’s services. You can find out more about the consultation and respond [here](file://C:\Users\ghydesmith\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\O64NPWAT\Proposals%20for%20the%20future%20location%20of%20very%20specialist%20cancer%20treatment%20services%20for%20children%20living%20in%20south%20London%20and%20much%20of%20south%20east%20England%20-%20Transformation%20Partners%20in%20Health%20and%20Care).

We have prepared this information sheet to ensure you have accurate information about Evelina London at your fingertips to help inform any response you submit.

The Principal Treatment Centre (PTC) serves the populations of south London, Kent, Medway, most of Surrey, East Sussex, Brighton and Hove. If Evelina London is selected as the PTC future location, the current services at the Royal Marsden would transfer to Evelina London, ensuring continuity of care for patients and families. We would work in partnership with St George’s, which would continue to provide supporting services for children with cancer, as well as continuing our existing close collaboration with Kings College Hospital, which also provides cancer surgery in the current service. We would co-design the services and new facilities with patients, families and colleagues working in the current service at the Royal Marsden.

1. **A summary of Evelina London’s children’s cancer proposal**

Evelina London Children’s Hospital is an ‘outstanding’ rated hospital by the Care Quality Commission that has been co-designed by children and families to be bright, friendly and offer plenty of places to play.

**World-Class:** Evelina London is the only option that will mean the new children’s cancer centre is based at a dedicated children’s hospital – aligning our region with the rest of the country and international best practice, thereby ensuring children and their families have access to the best possible clinical facilities.

**Clinical Research:** Evelina London could immediately begin new children’s cancer clinical research studies and offer the latest immune therapies like CAR-T, both essential for the future of children’s cancer care. Evelina London has two dedicated children’s research wards and a specialist children’s research team already working on more than 180 children’s research studies with academic and industry partners worldwide.

**Family Support:** The teams at Evelina London understand how difficult it is to be the family member of a seriously unwell child. To support families, Evelina London will offer free, dedicated parking for the new children’s cancer centre (matching the capacity at the current centre) and can also support with the cost of travel. Free bedside, overnight accommodation is provided in most areas as well as an additional 60 rooms in our dedicated Ronald McDonald House for longer stays.

**Connected:** Evelina London’s children’s intensive care ambulance service looks after some of the sickest children in south east England, making sure they are in the right place to receive highly specialist care, where and when they need it. Evelina London also delivers over 1,000 clinics a year in local hospitals, bringing our specialist expertise closer to where children live, while our clinical education team help to train staff at every other hospital in the region.

Evelina London already provides children with a wide range of services across the same geography as the Principal Treatment Centre. If successful, we will build on our track record of clinical and research excellence, along with considerable investment in our children’s services over many years, to deliver the cancer services that children need now and in the future.

1. **Our offer in more detail**

**3.1 Evelina London’s Clinical Services**

* Around 3,000 dedicated staff who work solely with children and young people.
* Recognised as experts in many aspects of children’s care. We currently provide the existing cancer Principal Treatment Centre with the specialist cardiology and renal expertise that children with cancer may need, at scale, 24 hours a day.
* Evelina London offers 30 dedicated paediatric intensive care beds (PICU) – the largest PICU capacity in the region - and additional significant high dependency capacity across the hospital.
* As a dedicated children’s hospital Evelina London’s teams are highly experienced in supporting children and families at an exceptionally difficult moment in their lives.
* Evelina London’s well-established programme supporting young people in their transition to adult services, has been independently assessed as ‘excellent’ by panels involved in the NHS England options appraisal process.

**3.2 Evelina London’s joined up approach to cancer care**

* Evelina London already provides specialist input for the whole region to help detect and manage heart and kidney complications arising from cancer treatments and operates the intensive care ambulance service for the current children’s cancer service, ensuring children receive the highly specialist care where and when they need it.
* Children will receive radiotherapy treatment at University College London Hospital (UCLH) in either option. Evelina London is much closer to UCLH than the alternative option, so children will have a shorter journey time to receive their treatment.
* Neurosurgery is a key specialism that will continue to be provided by both King’s College Hospital, where 80% of children from the Principal Treatment Centre are currently supported, or St George’s Hospital. Evelina London has a longstanding partnership and works as ‘one team’ with King’s College Hospital’s neurosciences team. Clinicians from King’s College Hospital already provide some highly specialist neurosurgical procedures at Evelina London, and conduct clinical reviews for children on our wards, reducing the need for them to transfer to another hospital.
* Evelina London already shares a single electronic health record system (Epic) with King’s College Hospital, and patient records and information can be linked to, and shared with, the Royal Marsden, University College London Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital who also use Epic. This will make it easier for our clinical teams to work together and for patients and families to engage in their care.

**3.3 Evelina London support across the region**

* Evelina London has an extensive track record of working with hospitals across our region to improve the care of seriously unwell children, no matter where they live and receive treatment. We care for twice as many children than any other hospital in the region.
* Evelina London’s children’s intensive care team travels to all of the hospitals in the region to look after and transfer the sickest children, making sure they receive highly specialist care where and when they need it.
* Over 1,000 clinics a year are delivered by Evelina London clinicians in local hospitals, bringing our specialist expertise closer to where children live.
* Evelina London’s clinical education team help to train staff at every other hospital in the region.
* A number of specialist paediatric care networks, including the South Thames Paediatric Network, operate from Evelina London. Through this, we help drive improvements in the quality of care and treatment outcomes for children across our region, helping them receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

**3.3 Facilities and support for families**

* We offer free ‘home away from home’ accommodation for the families of children being treated at Evelina London in the dedicated 60-bedroom Ronald McDonald House, the largest in London.
* Evelina London will provide free, dedicated parking for the new Children’s Cancer Centre, matching the number of car parking spaces at the current Centre.
* If families are travelling to Evelina London with a child that has a weakened immune system, or being dropped off for their appointment, they will be able to drive right up to Evelina London's front door.
* Evelina London also provides support with travel costs, including the Congestion and Ultra Low Emission Zone charges, so families can focus on their children.
* Evelina London’s award-winning play specialists are embedded within wards/services and prepare children and young people for medical procedures and treatment.
* Children in Evelina London Children’s Hospital care can continue to learn in the Ofsted rated ‘outstanding’ Evelina Hospital School.
* The CQC survey scores for Evelina London on communication with the clinical teams and families’ involvement in decision-making, are the highest in the South Thames region.
* We also offer a confidential counselling service for parents and carers of children being treated at Evelina London.
* We have actively involved children and families in developing and designing Evelina London’s services and hospital facilities, including Evelina London Children’s Hospital and the Children’s Day Surgery Unit. This involvement ensures that we provide the best possible care by continuously and consistently listening to those who receive it.

**3.4 Evelina London’s clinical research**

* NHS England’s panel of independent experts in paediatric oncology has independently assessed Evelina London as having the best potential for enhancing children’s cancer research. This is based on Evelina London’s international impact as a children’s health research leader, as well as the Trust’s expertise in adult’s cancer research.
* Evelina London has a team of 75 dedicated children’s health researchers. The Trust receives more than £25m a year in funding to support research staff.
* Evelina London’s global research partnerships have already made a profound impact on the lives of sick children, including ground-breaking clinical trials into peanut allergies and pioneering imaging studies that have advanced understanding of brain and heart function.
* Guy’s and St Thomas’ already work very closely with King’s College London (KCL), one of the top universities in the world for medical research, and has active research partnerships with the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). Together with KCL, we have developed and delivered the type of cutting-edge therapies and clinical interventions that will be crucial to the future of children’s cancer care.
* King’s College London has a vacant Chair which if we are successful could be in Paediatric Oncology.
* Evelina London supports more seriously ill children and their families through National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) research studies than any other hospital in London.
* Evelina London, Guy’s and St Thomas’ and King’s College London would welcome the opportunity to build on existing research collaborations with Royal Marsden and Institute of Cancer Research colleagues to develop an outstanding research programme for paediatric oncology if we are successful.

**3.5 Ongoing investment**

* Guy’s and St Thomas’ are committed to continuing to invest substantially in children’s services, building on the £185 million already invested over the last 20 years. No other Trust in the region has dedicated this level of investment in specialist care for children.
* Guy’s and St Thomas’ have ambitious plans to continue to invest and support children’s services into the future recognising that the children of south east London and the south east deserve access to the very best services and research infrastructure.
* We have recently opened a new Children’s Day Treatment Centre, next door to the main hospital. We plan to create a world leading campus for children supporting the development of research and specialist services specifically for children in our region
* We will deliver the cancer services that children need now and also ensure we have everything in place to accelerate research so that we can deliver new treatments as they emerge in the future

**A dedicated children’s charity**

* Evelina London Children’s Charity is a dedicated children’s hospital charity that has raised more than £20m over the last five years, to support Evelina London Children’s Hospital’s work.
* The charity’s support has included funding Evelina London’s children’s clinical research facilities, a state-of-the-art research MRI scanner, early stage clinical research and equipment. In addition, they have funded child-friendly environments such as our new Children’s Day Surgery and accommodation for families.
* Evelina London Children’s Hospital also benefits from the significant support of the wider Guy’s and St Thomas Foundation – one of the largest NHS charities.
1. **Further information about Evelina London**

Find out more about Evelina London [here](https://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-bid.aspx).

1. **How to respond to NHS England’s consultation**

For more information on NHS England’s consultation and to respond, visit: [Proposals for the future location of very specialist cancer treatment services for children living in south London and much of south east England - Transformation Partners in Health and Care](https://www.transformationpartners.nhs.uk/childrenscancercentre/)