



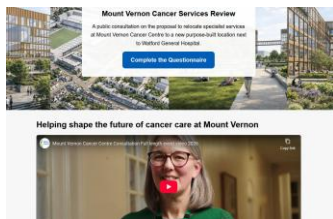
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

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Relocation of Mount Vernon Radiotherapy services – Luton or Stevenage?

Patients are being asked about proposals to move the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre in Northwood to Watford (let's hope they provide more parking). New radiotherapy centres either at Luton or Stevenage may also be built. This survey at <https://mvccreview.nhs.uk/> will close on 29th March 2026, but the building and move from Mount Vernon will take years.

Whilst there is a very clear understanding of why change is needed and how it will help patients, there is no definite funding as yet. The greater the number of responses to the survey the greater the case for funding to be awarded.



PPG – REPRESENTING PATIENTS' VIEWS

The purpose of the patient participation group is to represent patients' views, so we're running a survey to check how patients rate various aspects of their care from the Village Surgeries.

Ideally, we should do this every year so that we can show progress and compare results from one year to the next.

The survey will be available from now till the end of February and can be found at <https://fotvs.org/survey/>

Vaccinations for Holidays



For those of you planning an overseas holiday, remember that if you need vaccinations, some need to be taken 6-8 weeks before you get there. Also some vaccinations require several doses spread over weeks or months to build up full immunity. Full details can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations/travel-vaccination-advice/>.

NHS England To Be Abolished

In order to save money by reducing administration costs, the government will abolish NHS England and bring its responsibilities under the management of the Department of Health and Social Care. The Kings Fund described the cost savings (0.25% of the total NHS budget) as a "drop in the ocean" but it does give ministers greater control. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c93nvvw1x20o>

How the NHS is Changing – Third Party Providers

The NHS is going through some of the its biggest change since it began. Multiple pressures including increasing demand, workforce challenges and the need to deliver care closer to home have led to more partnerships with charities, hospices and community care organisations (Third Party Providers).

This has led to greater integration across different delivery methods of healthcare, reduced hospital admissions and more personalised care for patients. These benefits have been made possible by Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) which co-ordinate the NHS, local authorities, and the voluntary sector to deliver care in a more joined-up way.

ICSs aim to breakdown the traditional “silos” (where patients remain before treatment ends) between acute hospitals, primary care, mental health services and community providers, ensuring that people get the right support at the right time. This might be rehabilitation after an operation or palliative care at home. This shift emphasizes prevention, early intervention and community based care, all areas where “third sector” organisations play a vital role.

An example of this is increased commissioning of specialist services from hospices. These include community palliative care, hospice at home and personalised care services, all aligned to NHS goals and standards.

Locally, Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care provide hospice at home, counselling, art therapy, support groups, family support including specialized childrens services, community support including trained volunteers acting as “Compassionate Neighbours” as well as therapy, physiotherapy and dietary advice.

You can find out more about how Rennie Grove Peace Care integrates with the NHS locally by coming to our next health talk. Click on <https://fotvs.org/next-speaker-event/> for details.

Membership is now free.

Please note: Membership of the Patient Participation Group was £5 per annum by standing order but is now free.

We have no control over payments made to us by standing order, which were made on 1st April each year. If your standing order is still operating, please contact your bank to cancel it.

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