

February 2026

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING:

Proposed changes to Haematology inpatient care at the Princess Royal University Hospital

Introduction

At King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, we have undertaken a review of how inpatient Haemato-oncology (Haematology cancer) care is provided for haematology patients at the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH).

The review identified that changing the way we currently deliver this care would provide better specialist access and outcomes for patients. It would also ensure we are working in a way that reflects the progress and advancements that have been made over time when it comes to treatment options.

We are now developing proposals to improve inpatient care and enhance day case care for haematology patients.

To help us shape our proposals we want to hear from patients and families, community organisations and other local stakeholders, and have launched a period of engagement.

We have prepared this briefing for local stakeholders, including community organisations.

This briefing provides an overview of the changes we are considering, outlines the case for change and more information on the engagement period, including how we are engaging with patients. We also have a frequently asked questions document that may be helpful.

We value the voices of community and system partners and welcome any feedback you wish to share.

Background

The Trust provides haematological cancer care at both King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill and the Princes Royal University Hospital (PRUH).

King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill is a tertiary centre for haematology. This means the site provides highly specialised treatment and procedures. This covers the full spectrum of haematological care and treatment, including stem cell transplantation, CAR-T and gene therapy. It serves as a regional hub for highly complex conditions and is a leading centre for clinical trials and research. It has highly specialised facilities, such as HEPA-filtered wards

for immunocompromised patients and dedicated Day Case facilities open seven days a week for both planned and urgent treatment. This is delivered by a large, multidisciplinary and highly specialist team, including, Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), Advanced Clinical Practitioners, Counselling and Psychological support, Social Workers as well as the subspecialty medical staff. They are supported by a host of specialist services including critical care, cardiology, hepatology, renal, respiratory medicine, neurosciences and haemato-dermatology.

Princess Royal University Hospital provides a range of haematology care, focusing on inpatient care for the less intensive chemotherapy regimens, outpatient clinics, with day-case procedures like blood transfusions, and supportive care delivered via the hospital's Planned Investigation Unit (PIU) for patients receiving low to intermediate-intensity chemotherapy attend the Trust's Chemotherapy Unit. In addition to Haemato-oncology, the service manages common conditions such as anaemia, general bleeding/clotting disorders, and general follow-up for chronic conditions. This is delivered through a district general hospital model with clinicians covering some general work as well as a sub-speciality area. Currently patients are transferred to King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill for more specialised inpatient care and/or complex treatment.

Haematological cancers are the fifth most common cancers diagnosed in England [NHS England cancer registration statistics 2022]. Nationally there are around 40,000 new haematological cancer diagnoses a year. These conditions affect the blood, bone marrow and lymphatic system and include leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. At King's, we diagnose circa 4,200 new cancers a year, across the two hospital sites, 5% (220) of which are haematological.

The case for change

- From cutting edge treatments, innovative technologies and pioneering clinical trials, haematology care has seen extensive and rapid development over the past two decades. These changes in treatment options for patients with haematological cancer include new drugs and the development of options such as CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell therapy, a type of immunotherapy for some types of blood cancer)
- More inpatient chemotherapy treatments can be performed in day case settings, rather than an inpatient admission. Patients that do need to be cared for as an inpatient are more likely to require the facilities of a tertiary centre.
- The volume of haematological cancer inpatients at PRUH is relatively low, at around 110 per year. This presents challenges for our workforce when it comes to standardised care delivery, maintaining competencies and development opportunities.
- The way that the haematology service is organised across the Trust currently is fragmented and makes it challenging for staff to work in a way that is aligned, collaborative and with consistent levels of management support.
- There is currently no standard pathway for same day emergency care for haematology patients at PRUH. This is managed locally in a non-standardised way,

with patients usually being admitted. Overall, this leads to unnecessary admissions and waits in the hospital's emergency department.

- Current arrangements do not enable us to meet national best practice standards set out by NHS England for specialised services. These standards emphasise equity, efficiency and consistency of care.

What we are proposing

The aim of our proposal is to improve quality and optimise clinical outcomes for patients whilst providing equity of access for all Bromley patients and a sustainable service for the long term.

The proposals we are developing include remodelling the haematological cancer care provided at PRUH including on Chartwell ward by:

- Bringing all haematology inpatient cancer care provided by the Trust together at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill
- Establishing a haematology day case unit at the PRUH for both emergency care and planned care

This builds on existing arrangements, where some Bromley patients already receive inpatient haematology at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill depending on clinical needs. Local access would also improve through the addition of a new day case pathway.

Outpatient cancer care for haematology patients would remain at the PRUH and is not included in change proposals. The cancer care model for all other cancer types at the PRUH is not included in these change proposals.

Shaping our proposals

Before launching this formal engagement period, we have already been informed by early engagement with patients, staff and stakeholders. This included:

An initial review of patient feedback and patient experience data enhancement exercise – involving speaking to patients on Chartwell ward at the PRUH and contacting patients who had been discharged over the past 6 months.

Dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders – We have had contact with a number of stakeholders about this work already including the local council, system partners - South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NHS England, Chartwell Cancer Trust, and MPs. We have also met with Bromley Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee (part of the council) on several occasions to discuss this work.

Healthwatch Bromley has been involved in supporting early engagement work with patients, carers and staff, through initiating a series of standard engagement visits to the Haematology department at both hospital sites with our full support and facilitation.

Engaging with patients and families

It is a priority during this engagement period to hear from patients using or who have recently used the service. We are seeking feedback from:

- Haematology cancer patients who have been inpatients at the PRUH in the last 2-3 years.
- Their families/carers.

We are using a range of methods to engage including focus groups, telephone interviews and digital survey.

Our focus is to capture feedback on the proposed patient pathways we have developed in draft as follows:

1. **Planned (Elective) Admissions** - This is the pathway for patients who need planned Haematology inpatient care, proposed to receive care at the King's College Hospital site.
2. **Haematology Day Unit** – This is for patients who can receive care in a day case setting at the PRUH.

Next steps

We will review all the feedback received during this engagement period and use it to inform final decision making.

Our engagement period will run until **Monday 16 March 2026**.

Tell us what you think

We have written to you as a community partner/organisation or system partner with our online feedback form - <https://forms.office.com/e/i79bPPn9hD> - and other ways you can share your views and considerations during the engagement period.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

February 2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Proposed changes to Haematology inpatient care at the Princess Royal University Hospital

Why is providing more complex care at Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) and having more specialist staff based there not an option?

The PRUH is not a designated tertiary centre for specialist care. Therefore, it cannot provide highly specialised treatments and procedures. King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill is a tertiary centre, with an established specialist infrastructure to support Haematology patients. This is why it can provide the full range of haematological care and treatment.

Will there be enough room to accommodate extra patients at the King's College Hospital site?

Yes, as part of our proposal, we would introduce additional beds to reflect an increased number of patients. However, many haematology patients already come to the King's College Hospital site for some of their treatment, so we have significantly more capacity on this site as it currently stands.

If you become an inpatient at the King's College Hospital site rather than the PRUH, would you have all your outpatient appointments there too?

No, we are not proposing this. Outpatient treatment would continue at the PRUH. Some patients already attend specialist clinics at the King's College Hospital site. The majority of care for haematology patients would still be provided locally at the PRUH, and we propose to enhance this by introducing a Haematology Day Unit to the site.

Is Chartwell ward closing?

No, Chartwell ward is not closing. But we are seeking to remodel the care on the ward as part of changes proposed to the way inpatient cancer care is delivered for haematology patients.

What would happen to Chartwell ward?

We are exploring options to enhance emergency and planned care day case provision for haematology cancer patients. We would like to use the Chartwell ward as part of this. There is currently no dedicated day case area for haematology cancer patients. This means that in an emergency they attend via the emergency department and often end up being admitted to hospital unnecessarily.

What happens to the other patients being treated for other types of cancers?

They will continue to be treated at the PRUH on wards appropriate to their condition.

Will patients be taken to the King's College Hospital site or will they have to travel themselves?

Patients requiring and eligible for hospital transport would continue to have the same access. A patient that has been admitted at the PRUH and needs to be transferred to the King's College Hospital site would be transferred by the patient transport service.

What about families of patients, have you considered the impact on them of moving inpatient care away from the PRUH?

We are aware that a relocation presents challenges for some families. We are committed to listening to patients and their families and doing everything we can to support them through any change, should this proposal move forward. This is why we are hosting dedicated sessions for patients and families, as well as providing other ways for them to comment.