

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FUTURE DREAMS HOUSE- Ref. 2018/3956/P-

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in support of the above application.

There are many breast cancer support services that this project can provide for women at various stages of their diagnosis or management. For example: counselling, personal psychological support, provision of a place for peace, reflection and relaxation, complementary services such as aromatherapy and massage are already well established by Breast Cancer Haven and have been found to be highly beneficial by their recipients. I believe there is also need for an advisory clinic for women, especially younger women regarding the facts about breast cancer, their personal risk and methods and benefits of early detection. The feasibility of providing an on-site breast ultrasound service might also be explored. Such a range of services are not necessarily available or possible within a hard-pressed NHS, nevertheless can transform the lives and ability to cope for women in need. I am saddened to hear that Breast Cancer Haven will need to move from its current centre in 2019 and know from the front line the importance of their services. Ideally these can be relocated with even greater impact at Future Dreams House, Birkenhead Street, Kings Cross.

It is long proven that women worried about breast cancer are prepared to travel significant distances to access a high level of specialist care. The NHSBSP has approximately 80 centres in England to look after the entire country with over two million screened women each year. What these women require is ease of transport links to a suitable and accessible hub. Kings Cross could not be more ideally suited to serve the maximum possible number of women from all parts of London and suburbs due to the tube, bus and rail network including Thameslink and Crossrail. In addition, the nature of the highly successful regeneration of Kings Cross provides ample additional facilities to be enjoyed and therefore a great place to encourage travel in for both patients and staff.

This project also provides the opportunity for an exciting partnership and collaboration between Future Dreams, Breast Cancer Haven, the NHS and the private sector to work together utilising their individual strengths for the benefit of women. This could be a valuable resource for training of NHS staff in the less obvious aspects of breast cancer care, also providing good quality additional research material which might identify more streamlined use of scarce resources yet with improved quality of life and survival.

Such an inspirational and meaningful project might also be used as a catalyst to develop and establish the concept of pro-bono work from medical professionals, largely associated up until now with the legal profession. Voluntary work from non-medical professionals might also be encouraged to support this worthwhile project in such a popular and accessible part of London.

Significant stress elevation is linked with poorer survival in breast cancer patients. It is therefore of paramount importance to women and their families, and more cost effective, especially for the NHS to have such assistance to supplement its services that will help reduce stress levels and lower the need for additional service provision.

The real and potential stress levels for women and their families at all stages of the breast cancer process are considerable and not to be underestimated. Alleviation provided by a centre such as this

is to be welcomed and supported. I do not know of any medical professional working in the field of breast cancer that has visited the Haven and not been touched and motivated in equal measure by their experience. Any facilitation or expansion of access to such services in other areas of London should be strongly encouraged.

Please note that I have no financial interest of any kind in this project and this letter is written purely in support of what I believe to be its beneficial potential for women with breast cancer.

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