

Dear Planning Team

I write in support of this application.

I am a Breast Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist working at UCLH London. Our patients benefit hugely from Breast Cancer Haven. My caseload of patients is a mix of patients with Primary Breast cancer and Secondary Breast Cancer (life-limiting). The Haven provides complementary therapies, support and expert advice to women with this disease and in their recovery. The Haven provides a personalised, person-centred approach with their care and with an overstretched but fully functioning NHS service this is needed for our patients. It also provides a non-clinical environment for ladies to receive their support in. The Haven is a source of support and information for Health Care Professionals like myself which is highly utilised, providing up to date information, and education.

If Breast Cancer Haven were to close there would be a huge impact for the patients who will then need to look elsewhere for the support and would likely either "suffer in silence" or it would apply more pressure onto the NHS/local trust and Nursing Service. I would feel desperate if as a nurse I had to tell a patient that I understood the issues she had but there was nowhere or nothing I could offer to help.

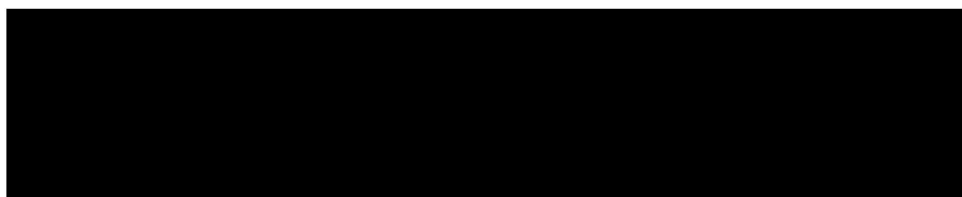
Kings Cross is an ideal area for relocation for our patients. We treat a large number of patients from out of the London area and Kings Cross is one of the most common train stations that our external patients travel into. This would be ideal for patients to attend as they could attend on a day when already attending for appointments. I think patients are willing to travel to access support but unfortunately the physical limitations they may have from treatment can make this difficult.

I would like the space at the Kings Cross be based on a similar theme to the Fulham. I always felt it was a relaxing environment and feel that the "no corners" feng shui approach was the base behind providing that safe, relaxing environment. There needs to be relevant rooms in terms of treatment/therapy rooms, counselling rooms, rooms big enough for effective groupwork.

The support services from the Haven that are vital for our patients are the tailored, individual emotional, physical and practical support that is provided. The service is a free service and includes counselling, managing the effects of treatment, and healthy living advice to aid recovery.

If you would like any further information, please contact me

Kind Regards



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