

## Objection

Planning Application 2022/2255P: Children's Cancer Centre

The plans for the CCC building show that almost the whole of the ground floor would be occupied by the Hospital's school. Currently the school is in the Southwood Building on the north side of the campus. Moving it to the CCC is presumably to facilitate GOSH's next-but-one project, the demolition and rebuilding of the Southwood building (the next project being the construction of a new vehicle route into the campus from Guilford St.). The school is for all patients: it has no special connection with cancer patients.

GOSH's new Zayed Centre for Rare Diseases in Children, in Guilford St, is 'celebrating three years of progress and breakthroughs' this year, evidently achieving its purpose. It is, however, severely underused. It is built so that you can see into its extensive main research area. This accommodates around 150 lab spaces. They are hardly used: I frequently walk past the building, and I've never seen more than six in use at any one time. There is equipment, lab coats, instruments etc, at each space but, as another regular passer-by suggests, this is a stage setting, to disguise the fact that this big space is hardly used at all.

The Hospital school needs to be on the main site. There are, however, undoubtedly activities currently on the main site which do not intrinsically have to be there. These could be lab functions, for example for the CCC, routine outpatient treatments, or other routine functions for which proximity to the children is unnecessary. Concentration of cancer services in the new Centre would also free space currently used for cancer treatment.

Transferring some of these functions to the unused spaces in the Zayed Centre would make it possible to relocate the school from the Southwood to elsewhere on the main campus. Space in the Zayed Centre would probably have to be re-configured and perhaps on the main site as well. But there would be no urgency for this reorganisation of space to be completed: as scheduled, the demolition and rebuilding of the Southwood building would not take place until after the next stage in the GOSH Masterplan, the next one being the new vehicle access to the campus directly off Guilford Street

Whether the case for a new Centre specifically for children with cancer has been made is doubtful. What is certain is that no case at all has been made for a new Hospital school. Rethinking the scheme along the lines above would have two very beneficial outcomes: the CCC tower could be one floor less high, and the unacceptable underuse of space in Zayed Centre would be corrected.

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