

# FRIENDS OF OUR NEW HOSPITAL

## MEDIA RELEASE

News for Immediate Release  
17 March 2020

Release Begins

### Friends of Our New Hospital Object to Government Plans to Raid the Health Insurance Fund to Pay for the Jersey Care Model

Friends of Our New Hospital have written to the Members of the States Assembly objecting strongly to plans by the Health & Community Services Ministry to raid the Health Insurance Fund to pay for the development of the Ministry's plans for the Jersey Care Model.

Bruce Willing, Chair of the Steering Group for Friends of Our New Hospital Stated:

“During our meeting with the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> March we were informed that there is a plan under consideration by Health & Community Services to remove £40 million or more from the Health Insurance Fund to pay for the Jersey Care Model. The Health Insurance Fund was established to assist Islanders in meeting the costs of GP care and pharmaceutical prescriptions. It is not a general fund to be used for financing Health & Community Services.”

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, the value of Health Insurance Fund stood at £93,979,000. During the year the Fund made payments totalling £28,098,00 including £7,754,000 paid to GPs for patient support and £19,450,00 for patient pharmaceuticals. In the view of the Friends of Our New Hospital taking £40,000,000 from the Fund to pay for the Jersey Care Model will seriously reduce its ability to support future patient demands and to meet emergency health care needs such as the current Covid-19 crisis.

Health & Community Services has presented an outline plan for the Jersey Care Model to Islanders and consultants have been engaged to review the model. However, at the moment Health & Community Services has no business plan, financial projections or budget for the Jersey Care Model.

Mr Willing went on to state:

“The current Covid-19 pandemic confirms that we need the best health care system possible in Jersey. If Health & Community Services wish to proceed with the Jersey Care Model, it should be funded through the Health & Community Services budget. If the budget is insufficient then the additional funding required for the Jersey Care Model should be debated and approved by the States Assembly. It is fundamentally wrong to consider raiding the Health Insurance Fund to finance the Jersey Care Model.

In the view of the Friends of Our New Hospital the Jersey Care Model is a distraction from the clear need to proceed with the design and construction of the Island's new hospital.

Release Ends

Further Background Follows

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**Friends of Our New Hospital** Friends of Our New Hospital is a non-profit organisation based in Jersey formed to act as an independent and objective source of information, commentary and advice on Island Health Care in general and in particular on the Government's "Our Hospital Project."

**Friends of Our New Hospital  
Position Paper dated 12  
March 2020** Please see the Position Paper "Robbing the Health Insurance Fund to Pay for the Jersey Care Model" enclosed for further background to the Media Release. The Position Paper has been sent to all States Assembly Members.

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