

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Public feedback sought on Hinchingsbrooke hospital proposals

A second public involvement opportunity has been launched to encourage patients, carers and staff to have their say about proposals for Hinchingsbrooke hospital. NHS East of England, NHS Cambridgeshire and Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust are working together to find a franchise partner to operate the hospital¹.

The release of the second edition of Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps News marks the launch, and its content was directly shaped in response to public feedback following the first wave of public engagement activities². The public wanted to know more, for example, about the objectives underpinning changes at the hospital, how any new management would be scrutinised, and how the franchise would operate in practice.

The newsletter also poses some new questions including: "How do you think the buildings at the hospital could be put to better use?" and "what are the three most important things for you, in relation to the services at Hinchingsbrooke?" Responses are requested by 31 March, after which they will then be considered by the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project board and put to potential bidders.

¹ This unique process proposes that the clinical and non-clinical services at Hinchingsbrooke hospital - other than where identified below - will be provided via an operating franchise agreement with an experienced healthcare provider from the NHS, independent or third sectors. This proposal will ensure that a full range of high quality acute hospital services will continue to be provided for local people at Hinchingsbrooke, as agreed at the end of the public consultation process on Hinchingsbrooke in 2007.

² The first public engagement opportunity spanned four weeks from 4 November to 2 December 2009. A third public engagement opportunity is scheduled to start on 12th April, lasting 12 weeks.

Dr Stephen Dunn, Director of Strategy at NHS East of England, said: "Feedback so far has been that people are keen to ensure the future and consistency of services for patients and staff, but would like more information on the proposed franchise. So that is why we've used the second Next Steps News to answer public queries directly and stress the rigorous process being undertaken to find the right partner to operate the hospital".

This public involvement opportunity is being widely promoted across Huntingdonshire and into surrounding areas through a display at the hospital, posters in libraries and other public places and increased information available online. This is coupled with a third stakeholder panel meeting, on 25 February, where representatives of those with particular interest in the hospital will review progress on the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project, and input their own ideas³.

The eight page newsletter is available to download online at www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects, or by calling freephone number 0800 923 3001.

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³ The stakeholder panel meetings are held in public, and everyone is welcome to come along, hear the proceedings and raise any questions they may have. The dates and venues for the stakeholder panel meetings are:

- 25 February 2010, 5.30pm, Hinchingsbrooke House Assembly Rooms
- 26 May 2010, 2pm, Hinchingsbrooke House Assembly Rooms
- 5 July 2010, 2pm, Hinchingsbrooke House, Assembly Rooms
- 27 October 2010, 2pm, venue to be confirmed
- 6 January 2011, 5.30pm, Hinchingsbrooke House Assembly Rooms

Three public meetings have also been added to the public engagement calendar; the first meeting is on 4 March in Cambourne:

- **Cambourne** (Thursday 4 March 2010, 6 to 9pm)
South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne
- **March** (Wednesday 7 July, 6 to 9pm)
Fenland Hall, County Road, March
- **Huntingdon** (date TBC)
District Council offices

Notes for editors

- Hinchingsbrooke hospital, which opened in 1983, is modern and purpose-built, with 369 beds providing quality up-to-date healthcare - including accident and emergency and maternity services - for approximately 161,000 people in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas.
- Services on the Hinchingsbrooke hospital site provided by other organisations, such as Cambridgeshire Community Services through contractual arrangements with NHS Cambridgeshire, are unaffected by this franchise offer.
- Further information about the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project can be found at www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects or by calling freephone 0800 923 3001.
- The Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project is being managed by NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team led by Andrew MacPherson, Director of Strategic Projects. This team of experts works in partnership to develop and deliver positive change for NHS services in the East of England. Working closely with the healthcare marketplace and the stakeholders, it develops, supports and delivers transactions that drive up the quality of patient experience, safety and care, clinical excellence, public service and value for money.

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