

PRESS RELEASE

Date of Issue: 25 March 2010
PR 255

Embargo: 00.01 Friday 26 March 2010

Three organisations shortlisted in Hinchingsbrooke hospital franchise proposal

Circle Health, Ramsay Health Care UK and Serco Health, which is working with Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, have been shortlisted for the next stage to apply for the unique franchise to operate Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust, the first of its kind in the NHS.

Circle, Ramsay and Serco have qualified to participate in the second stage of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) part of the tender. The ITPD is a two stage process where organisations are individually invited to meet with representatives from NHS East of England, the commissioners, hospital staff and others to propose solutions to making the future of Hinchingsbrooke hospital sustainable. Circle, Ramsay and Serco were shortlisted from five organisations which made submissions on 15 February following ITPD1, the first stage.

Dr Stephen Dunn, Director of Strategy at NHS East of England, said:

“Potential partners have been sharing with us some really pioneering ideas about how they would make Hinchingsbrooke sustainable, and secure its longer term future. An expert team has been evaluating how robust these ideas are, whether the bidders have sufficient vision, experience and a solid financial platform. Our expectations are high, and we have been very impressed with the quality”.

The expert evaluation team is comprised from a broad panel of stakeholders led by NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team and includes Hinchingsbrooke hospital and local commissioners.

Mark Millar, Chief Executive at Hinchingsbrooke hospital, said:

"We know that patients will continue to receive NHS services, and we know that staff and assets will remain protected within the NHS. Now we're at the stage where the potential partners get quizzed in much more detail and have to provide hard and fast evidence of their suitability for taking over the management of our hospital".

Maureen Donnelly, Chair of NHS Cambridgeshire, said:

"As Hinchingsbrooke's main commissioner of services, I'm looking forward to working together with any of the potential partners, to deliver something new and exciting. Each stage of the process gets tougher, and rightly so, as the taxpayer and the NHS deserve the very best".

It is planned that the preferred bidder will be announced at the end of September.

The public is encouraged to get involved and have their say about the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps. To find out how, visit www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects or call 0800 923 3001 for more detail.

ENDS

Notes for editors

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. The public consultation process on Hinchingsbrooke in 2007 agreed that the full range

of high quality acute services - including accident and emergency and maternity services - will continue to be provided for local people at Hinchingbrooke. Services on the Hinchingbrooke hospital site provided by other organisations, such as Cambridgeshire Community Services through contractual arrangements with NHS Cambridgeshire, are unaffected by this franchise offer.

2. Hinchingbrooke 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 Huntingdon and the surrounding areas.
3. The Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project is directed by NHS East of England's Dr Stephen Dunn, Director of Strategy, and managed by the 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.
4. Further information about the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project and how members of the public can have their say can be found at www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects or by calling freephone 0800 923 3001.

For more information please contact the NHS East of England Press Office

Telephone	01223 597545
Email	pressoffice@eoe.nhs.uk
Pager	07699 727 918
Website	www.eoe.nhs.uk

