

July 2010



Strategic Projects News Update

Welcome to the monthly update from NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team (SPT). The Team is part of the Strategy Directorate and works in partnership with NHS organisations to develop and deliver positive change for services in the east of England. Working closely with the healthcare marketplace and all stakeholders, we develop, support and deliver transactions that drive up the quality of patient experience, safety and care, clinical excellence, public service and value for money.

The NHS Bedfordshire and NHS Luton 'three'

The search is on to find new NHS organisations to take over the two PCTs' community services arms, Bedfordshire Community Health Services and Luton Community Services.

The move follows the Department of Health's 'Transforming Community Services' programme which will see all PCTs 'divesting' their community health services by April 2011 in a drive to improve choice for patients.

The two PCTs are working together and are being supported by members of the SPT in a 'managed dialogue' process.

Following a call for expressions of interest, and scrutiny of subsequent submissions, the following three organisations have been invited to take part in the next stage.

- Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
- Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

On behalf of our clients, our congratulations and thanks to all who expressed interest!

See www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects for more information including the first edition of B&L Next Steps News.

Preparing the prospectus – time for your input

The NHS Luton and NHS Bedfordshire Project Team is now developing the Prospectus, which

gives potential acquirers an overview of how the divestment process works, current patterns in commissioning and detail of the services being provided.

The Board is keen that staff, patients, carers and all other stakeholders are engaged in the process and has invited people to leave comments, suggestions and ideas on the dedicated area of our website (www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects)

Comments will be shared with the Project Board, and made available to the potential acquirers. The deadline is 9 August.

Once the Prospectus has been approved it will be sent to the three shortlisted organisations, who have until 29 September to respond.

What Good Might Look like - Pathology

Our Transforming Pathology Services project board has invited stakeholders to develop key performance indicators (KPIs) that could apply to future pathology services within the east of England.

Suggestions have been captured and a draft will be finalised with the help of the clinical design sub group who is already making a huge contribution to this exciting project.

We have set up an online facility on NHS Networks so everyone interested in the Transforming Pathology project can share their ideas and experience through the site's forum facilities. The early registration process problems have now been sorted, so please visit NHS Networks and become a member at www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/nhs-east-of-england-transforming-pathology

Meeting the QIPP challenge

NHS East of England has been further considering how best to respond to the QIPP challenge, particularly in the context of increasingly tight budgets coupled with growing patient expectations. £1.8bn needs to be released in the region to invest in the health and healthcare services promised within *Towards the best, together*.

One idea that has gained some support is the creation of Integrating Pathway Hubs, which have the potential to offer a more effective method of managing referrals and demand than the present contractual approach.

This Integrating Hub Model has been under consideration for some time now and the NHS EoE management board has decided to explore further the viability of this model with the help of stakeholders. The EoE SPT is currently undertaking a project to assess this concept and make recommendations on possible further development.

The SPT are STARS – it's official

The team was delighted, earlier this month, to receive NHS East of England's STAR (Staff Award and Recognition Scheme) award for innovation. We were credited for our "innovative work on competitive mergers, acquisitions and divestments. This high paced, creative team has delivered work which of national importance. Its work with Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust and groundbreaking approach to Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps were recognised as being of national importance. The team has been in the healthcare spotlight and have received praise on a national scale". We're chuffed!

Timeline update

The Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project timeline has recently been extended for a couple of reasons. Firstly, to take into account that three bidders have been invited to ITPD2 (the second invitation to participate in dialogue stage), rather than the originally anticipated two. This was excellent news as there were three strong organisations interested in Hinchingsbrooke's operating franchise. Each is bringing exciting suggestions about how they might propose to make the hospital sustainable in the longer term.

Secondly, some of the bidders also asked for further time to prepare their ITPD2 submissions,

so they could consider changes in NHS Cambridgeshire's commissioning environment and how that might shape their proposals.

The deadline for submissions was 26 July 2010, with a preferred bidder expected to be announced by end November.

Keep talking

There's been a positive flurry of public engagement in the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project this month with a stakeholder panel meeting on 5 July, our second public meeting, on 7 July, this time in the town of March. And lastly (for now) a public meeting was held in St Neots on 19 July, following specific requests from the public. Our thanks to Gerry McSorley, Hinchingsbrooke's Chief Executive, for his presentations at these meetings, and David Monks for his consistently strong chairing.

After a short break in August we will be taking Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps back on the road, with a public meeting in St Ives on 23 September. See our website for more details.

Warm welcome

We welcome Amma Opoku as Project Co-ordinator, working on divestments, and Diekola Sulu (Das) as Programme Manager.

Strat facts

- The EoE Strategic Projects Team are currently handling transactions with a total value of £1.65 billion!
- Becky Ace, our Business Co-ordinator, won NHS East of England's Honorary Employee of the Month. Well done, Becky!



For further information please contact:

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