



March 2010



# Strategic Projects News Update

Welcome to the monthly update from NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team. The Team is part of the Strategy Directorate and works in partnership with NHS organisations to develop and deliver positive change for NHS services in the east of England. Working closely with the healthcare marketplace and the 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.

## Transforming pathology

The transforming pathology project is taking shape and we are mapping out how to support commissioners and service providers to develop their proposals for modernising pathology. A key element of this will be the creation of Managed Pathology Networks as a way of progressing Carter's recommendations in the east of England.

The Pathology Services Board's first meeting is set for 1 April and is being chaired by Dr Paul Zollinger-Read (NHS Cambridgeshire) and Anna Dugdale (Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust). While its exact terms of reference are still being polished, broadly, the Board's tasks will include:

- reviewing the commissioning of community pathology services and producing outline business case(s), specifications, proposals and implementing proposals for change.
- reviewing provider networks of pathology services and encouraging providers (including networks) to produce outline business case(s), specifications, proposals and implementing proposals for change
- developing and implementing effective communications strategies to involve stakeholders in the process.

We have identified clinical project board members, including representatives of the Royal College of Pathologists and the major

pathology specialisms. We are, however, seeking nominations for a patient representative, general practitioner, commissioner director of finance (or similar) and a representative for each of the following commissioning areas: Essex, Norfolk/Suffolk, West Anglia and Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire. If you're interested or wish to nominate someone, then please contact [strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk](mailto:strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk) as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

## New dawn for BLPT

We are in the final couple of weeks in the transition of Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) to South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT).

The Full Business Case has been completed, and was submitted to NHS East of England's board on 26 November. It was subsequently endorsed by BLPT's board on 17 December and the Department of Health's Transaction board on 18 December. From 1 April, the two organisations will operate as one, under the SEPT name. Project Handover stakeholders are currently finalising the commissioner contracts and Monitor clearances.

A communications plan is already in place so, when the handover time comes, we can thank all the parties for their involvement in this groundbreaking transaction, and mark for the public a new dawn in services.

## Six become five

Five organisations have progressed to the next stage in the search to find a new operating partner for Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust.

Formal submissions were received from the organisations listed below on 15 February, following the first round of Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) meetings.

- Care UK (Partnership Health Group Limited)
- Circle Health
- Interhealth Canada (UK) Ltd
- Ramsay Health Care UK
- Serco Health

Led by the SPT, the submissions are now being assessed by a broad panel of stakeholders which includes Hinchingsbrooke hospital, local commissioners, patient and staff representatives. Only the organisations which make the very best submissions will be invited to ITPD2, the second stage of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue. This begins on 12 April.

### Schedule reminder:

#### ITPD2 issued

12/04/10

#### ITPD2 submission deadline

24/05/10

#### ITPD2 evaluation

25/05/10 – 21/06/10

#### Confirmation of bidders recommended to proceed to ITT

12/07/10

#### ITT issued

12/07/10

## Engaging with the public

Over the last month the team has been taking the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps discussion out and about. On 10 February, we held a Q&A session at Hinchingsbrooke hospital, talking to patients and carers, taking them through the public involvement questions on the back of Next Steps News (you can also complete these online at [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects)). This was such an excellent engagement opportunity that we held the stall again, on 9 March, but this time in the treatment centre.

All the responses we received will be presented to the next project board meeting, and a summary made available to the bidders and readers of Next Steps News.

On 25 February, 40 people attended the stakeholder panel meeting, including three of the bidders. The participants understandably still had questions about how the operating franchise will work in practice, but they also made lots of good suggestions about improvements that could be made at the hospital such as speedier referrals, closer working with social services and extending the capacity of the treatment centre.

The first of our three public meetings was held on 4 March, in Cambourne, and 24 participants took a walk through the project's progress to date, and had the opportunity to pose questions directly to Dr Stephen Dunn, NHS East of England's Director of Strategy, and Mark Millar, Hinchingsbrooke's Chief Executive.

Minutes of these meetings will soon be available on the SPT's website. The next stakeholder panel meeting is on 26 May (2pm) in Hinchingsbrooke House, while the next public meeting is on 7 July (6pm) at Fenland Hall in March.

## Joining the twittering classes

The SPT is always looking to add to its communications toolbox, so we're poised to launch ourselves on Twitter. Our URL is <http://twitter.com/NHSEoEStrategy>. So please become a follower and join our Twitter stream.

## Strat facts

The second wave of public engagement for Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps started on 6 January and draws to a close on 31 March. To date, we have:

- initiated 35 stakeholder activities
- generated 30 media articles and interviews
- received 1,276 visits to our website, from 814 absolute unique visitors; over 58% of them were new. Between them they visited 4,368 pages, reading an average of 3½.

PS regular news on the NHS EoE Strategy Directorate coming soon!

**For further information please contact:**

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