



December 09



# Strategic Projects News Update

Welcome to the monthly update from NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team. The Team 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.

## Contract signed for BLPT

A bright new future is assured for Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) as the much anticipated new management contract was signed on 22 December; the first acquisition of its kind.

South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) was announced in September as preferred bidder, following a groundbreaking competition for BLPT. SEPT is set to take over the management of the Trust on 1 April 2010.

A mobilisation plan is now being implemented to ready staff, patients and carers for the new arrangements. Chris Bown has joined the EOE Strategic Projects Team in an interim capacity to support a smooth transition; he was Chief Executive at West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust in Bury St Edmunds until earlier this year. In April, Chris will be joining Poole Hospital as its new Chief Executive.

## 'Next Steps News' launched

The first edition of 'Next Steps News' was launched on 4 November to encourage the public to get involved in the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project, shaping the future of Hinchingsbrooke hospital.

The magazine gives a thorough background on why changes are needed and answers some frequently asked questions, confirming, for example, that staff and assets will remain within the NHS.

It posed questions which the public were encouraged to feed back on, such as "What innovations to healthcare services would you like to see at Hinchingsbrooke hospital?". The deadline for responses has now passed, and a summary of those received can be found at:

[www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects). Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts, questions and ideas. The responses were presented

to the project board meeting on 18 December for consideration in the drafting of the ITPD1.

## Future of Pathology

Dr Hemal Desai (SPT's Clinical Adviser) gave a presentation to the Royal College of Pathologists (EoE Division) on the future of Pathology services in the EoE region following the recommendations of the Carter Report. As expected, the College was very passionate about this topic and the presentation generated a vibrant discussion covering a range of important issues including the future model, key considerations and the role of the College in any committees moving forward.

Watch out for the new developments in 2010 as it should be an exciting time for Pathology services.

## Have you seen the Hinchingsbrooke online information centre?

There's further information about the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project now available on the SPT website in our Hinchingsbrooke online information centre. So log on to find:

- reports and magazines
- agendas and minutes
- presentations
- media coverage
- useful links

The MOI (memorandum of information) is there, for example, as are the agenda and minutes of meetings. So whether you want to download the first Next Steps News, or email a colleague the link to the Market Sounding Day presentation, then visit the online Hinchingsbrooke information centre at [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects).

## Two new public engagement opportunities

The next edition of Next Steps News is due in early January and marks the start of the first of two new public involvement opportunities, each lasting 12 weeks. This Next Steps News will cover a multitude, including responses to the PQQ, answers to new FAQs, a refresher on project objectives and a demystification of the MOI, PQQ and ITPD.

The first of the two new public engagement opportunities spans 4 January – 29 March, with public responses feeding into the production of ITPD2 documentation (the second invitation to participate in dialogue). The second spans 12 April – 5 July, with responses feeding into final ITT (invitation to tender).

## Questions and suggestions abound at stakeholder panel meeting

There was a great turnout at the Hinchingsbrooke stakeholder panel meeting held on 26 November; almost 40 people came along. The participants broke into workshops and much lively debate was had discussing the questions posed in Next Steps News, and also looking at ways in which individual stakeholders could raise awareness of the project. Minutes will soon be appearing on the SPT website. "Thank you" to everyone who participated.

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 February, 5.30pm at Hinchingsbrooke Assembly Rooms. Everyone is welcome to come along and watch the proceedings, with the public invited to pose their questions and ideas at the end.

## New Hinchingsbrooke public meetings announced

To reinforce the public engagement activities, David Monks, who chairs the Hinchingsbrooke stakeholder panel, has announced dates for three public meetings.

### **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

## Bidder low-down

The formal part of the process to find a new partner to manage Hinchingsbrooke started on 26 October 2009, with an advert being placed to invite expressions of interest from interested organisations. A total of 19 NHS and independent sector providers

expressed an interest, entitling them to receive the Memorandum of Information (MOI) and the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ). All interested parties had to complete the PQQ, giving a written reassurance that they can provide the services at Hinchingsbrooke properly.

A high number of PQQs were received, and their evaluation was completed on 30 November. Each applicant was assessed for their clinical, workforce, legal and financial credentials.

Successful organisations which passed the PQQ have now been invited to the next stage – the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD1). The ITPD documents give more information on the hospital, including staffing, patient numbers, finances etc and bidders are asked to demonstrate how they would use their skills and experience to manage the activities. The interested organisations have to submit their responses by 15 February 2010.

## Strengthened scrutiny relationship

Dr Stephen Dunn, Director of Strategy at NHS East of England, gave a presentation alongside Hinchingsbrooke Chief Executive, Mark Millar, to the Cambridgeshire Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on 2 September.

We were delighted to be invited back on 23 November to meet with a HOSC sub-group of councillors specially set up to look in more detail at the Hinchingsbrooke proposals. The councillors offered to get further involved and a third meeting was held on 8 December where the content of the ITPD was discussed and the councillors suggested some questions we might like to ask potential bidders. Our great thanks for their input; we very much value this relationship and their expertise.

## Strat facts

During the first Hinchingsbrooke public involvement phase (4 Nov - 2 Dec), there were:

- 552 visits to the SPT's website, from 331 different people
- over half (55.62%) were new to the site
- they read an average of 3.5 pages

## A last festive word

On behalf of NHS EoE Strategic Projects Team, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year. We would also like to thank you for all your support, contributions and involvement during 2009.

We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders and the market place in 2010!

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