



February 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.

Transition time for BLPT

Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) is now in a period of transition, following the signing of the much anticipated new management contract on 22 December.

To ensure that the excellent progress made by all partners over the last year is secured, the first of three Transition Board meetings took place on 13 January, comprising key NHS and local authority stakeholders. The objective of the Board is to ensure the successful completion of the transfer of BLPT to South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT), which came out as winner in this groundbreaking acquisition. SEPT takes on the management on 31 March 2010, and this final stage of the programme is critical.

The Board will be monitoring a mobilisation plan, ensuring that the appropriate legal frameworks and commissioner contracts are in place and managing risk. Good progress is being made and with further meetings scheduled for February and March we are confident that this programme will be a success.

Pathology progress

The Strategic Projects Team has been asked to support a review into pathology services, following an examination into provision by NHS East of England, completed in October. It has been proposed that a Pathology Services Review Board be established, with clinical, provider, commissioner, stakeholder and SHA representation.

The new Board will ask providers and commissioners to present proposals for service redesign across the east of England.

Outline business cases are expected to be received within six months from commencement (in April 2010). The project is expected to last 24 months.

And then there were six

We are pleased to tell you that six organisations have been shortlisted to operate Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust. Hinchingsbrooke is making history as the first Trust for which both NHS and Independent Sector providers have been invited to apply for such a unique operating franchise in the NHS.

The successful organisations which have been shortlisted are:

- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Care UK (Partnership Health Group Limited)
- Circle Health
- Interhealth Canada (UK) Ltd
- Ramsay Health Care UK
- Serco Health

Formal Bidder Days were held in week commencing 18 January where the potential partners had an opportunity to meet the Executive Team from Hinchingsbrooke, NHS Cambridgeshire and the Strategic Projects Team, including a tour of the hospital and its facilities. The Bidder Days produced an interactive and informative exchange between the parties which we anticipate will add greatly to informed and constructive submissions.

Eleven organisations from England and abroad submitted a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) by 16 November 2009, giving written reassurance of their eligibility and credentials. Each of these questionnaires was judged against stringent criteria, and the six listed above have passed on to the next stage - the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD). This is a two stage process where the organisations are individually invited to discuss possible solutions to the management of Hinchingsbrooke. The formal Invitation to Tender (ITT) will subsequently be published on 12 July 2010, with a response deadline of 26 July.

Tenders will be assessed by a broad panel of stakeholders led by the Strategic Projects Team and includes Hinchingsbrooke hospital, local commissioners, patient and staff representatives.

Got your copy of Next Steps Now?

Next Steps Now is an HTML newsletter giving updates on developments in the Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project. If you would like to receive future copies, then simply visit our website and leave us your contact details, or call using the freephone number 0800 923 3001. To see copies of the first two Next Steps Now updates, visit www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects and see the Hinchingsbrooke Information Centre section.

HNS stakeholder panel sub group

The sub group held its first meeting on 20 January. The small band of nine people has been asked to work more closely with us as an important point of ad-hoc contact, representing the full panel, should the need arise.

At the first meeting, Martin Peat, our commercial lead, talked through the ITPD1 documentation, and members were invited to meet the bidders on 1 June, represent the full stakeholder panel and formally assist with the bidder assessment process.

Let's meet; reminder Forthcoming HNS stakeholder panel meetings

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

HNS public meetings

Cambourne (4 March, 6-9pm)

South Cambridgeshire District Council,
Cambourne Business Park

March (7 July, 6-9pm)

Fenland Hall, County Road, March

Huntingdon (date TBC)

District Council offices

To find out more about the stakeholder panel and see related agenda and minutes, visit the Hinchingsbrooke public involvement section of our website.

Terrific trek

Parbinder Kaur, our project manager, is braving Mount Kilimanjaro in February, to raise funds for three special charities. Whilst she's clearly looking forward to witnessing the scenery, she's been told to prepare for headaches, tiredness, irritability, nausea and depression!

So, to keep her cheery on her way, will you sponsor Parbinder? To find out more about her chosen charities and to make a pledge, visit <http://climbkili2010.webeden.co.uk>. Thank you.

Strat facts

BLPT in numbers

- BLPT provides services for over 561,000 patients
- We received 20 initial expressions of interest in the merger
- SEPT has committed to provide an additional £6.8m of investment in services, and £13.5m on estates
- 1,430 BLPT staff will be transferred.

And finally...

We are looking forward to working with all our stakeholders (and some new ones) in 2010. We'd welcome your questions and comments on whether you find our updates useful? Email us at strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk or call us. We'll soon be extending this format to an electronic newsletter connected to the wider activities of NHS East of England's Strategy Directorate, so watch out for more news next month.

For further information please contact:

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