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June 2010

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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 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.

Introducing our managed divestment services

The Strategic Projects Team (SPT) has been asked by four Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in the east of England to help them transfer their community services, including the operations and staff, to other high quality NHS organisations from April 2011.

This divestment of community services by PCTs is in line with the Department of Health's national Transforming Community Services guidance, which aims to ensure that community services best meet the needs of the people using the services, their carers and families, and local communities. The opportunities to manage the community services from next year are open to NHS organisations.

The PCTs are taking the lead in the divestments. On their behalf and working with our colleagues in the Strategy Directorate, we have devised approaches and are managing all or part of their processes to choose the best acquirers and ensure that key local stakeholders are involved and kept up-to-date with progress.

We are managing the divestments of NHS Bedfordshire and NHS Luton's provider arms as a joint project, and the first project board meeting is next month. Through the newly formed Communications and Engagement Alliance, made up of representatives from the SPT, NHS Bedfordshire, NHS Luton, NHS Luton Community Services and Bedfordshire Community Health Services, we are planning on launching a Bedfordshire & Luton Next Steps News in early July.

Keeping our fingers crossed

We have been shortlisted in CIPS (Chartered Institute for Purchasing and Supply) Supply Management Awards 2010 for our work on BLPT Project Handover. Out of an overall 222 entries, we have been shortlisted under the Best Public Procurement Project category. So please join us in keeping our fingers crossed for 8 September, when the winners will be announced.

Productive pathology workshop

The SPT is working with commissioners and providers to implement the Carter recommendations in the region. To kick start this new Transforming Pathology project with style we hosted a workshop on 19 May, in which over 70 experts from the pathology world participated.

It was a very full day, and the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement kindly facilitated the event, using its Rapid Improvement Event approach. We thought this approach was important as we wanted participants to be part of the change process and own the outputs, which they will champion and actively communicate when taking it back into every day practice.

The pathology services transformation board has asked its clinical members to review the future service delivery model for pathology across the region. They are due to complete the review by mid July, when they will be reporting back to the board.

Take part in the Transforming Pathology discussion by joining our NHS Network. Visit www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/nhs-east-of-england-transforming-pathology.

Investigating integrated pathways

We have been asked to look for innovative ways to help local clinicians and Trusts refer patients for treatment and care in a way that puts the needs of the patients first, while being more cost effective for the NHS.

One of these ways may be to set up a service, staffed by skilled and experienced doctors and other healthcare professionals, to manage the referral process between family doctors and hospitals. Some local PCTs already employ organisations to do similar work for them.

At this stage, we are asking PCTs and NHS Trusts in the east of England to help us do a feasibility study on a type of service called an integrated pathway hub model. We hope to report the outcomes of this study to the NHS East of England Board by the end of July. See next month's SPT Update for more information or call Ty Robinson on 0800 923 3001.

Hinchingbrooke: grab your diary

Responding to public request we are pleased to announce two new public meeting dates to encourage the participation of patients, carers, staff and others in the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps (HNS) project:

Monday 19 July

Winhills Primary School, St Neots

Thursday 23 September

Corn Exchange, St Ives

In the meantime, we hope to see you at the following meetings:

Stakeholder panel meeting (open to the public)

Monday 5 July 2010

Hinchingbrooke House Assembly Rooms

Public meeting

Wednesday 7 July 2010

Fenland Hall, March

For more information about any of the HNS stakeholder and public meetings [click here](#) to visit

our website at www.strategicprojectseoe.co.uk/index.php?id_sec=98.

Top ten facts about HNS, and feedback

Feedback from the public during the first two HNS engagement phases was that people wanted to know more about the bidders and the procurement process. So during phase three, spanning 19 May to 11 August, we're doing just that.

Last month's Update highlighted the opportunities created for the three bidders to present their organisations to stakeholders, Hinchingbrooke staff and members of the public. See, for example, the page each organisation contributed to Next Steps News edition 3. [Click here](#) to visit our website at www.strategicprojectseoe.co.uk/index.php?id_sec=92.

To help clarify the HNS project and its process, Next Steps News 3 also features our 'top ten facts' covering issues such as:

- Treatment for NHS patients is the priority. This is about NHS patients.
- Staff will continue to be employed by the NHS, retaining their NHS terms and conditions.
- Hinchingbrooke is not being privatised. What is being offered is a franchise to operate the hospital.

These ten top facts then lead into the third public feedback opportunity which says simply "Having read the above top ten facts, what specifically are your biggest remaining concerns about the proposed changes"?

You can feed in your thoughts by using the online form. [Click here](#) to visit our website at www.strategicprojectseoe.co.uk/index.php?id_sec=96.

Strat facts

In his first three months of full operation, Dr Dunn, our online virtual assistant, held 162 'conversations' with visitors to our website, who asked an average of two or three questions. In total, Dr Dunn answered 575 questions.

Our virtual assistant 'learns' more answers the more questions he's asked, so please do ask him what you want to know about our projects and he'll point you to the right web page. If he can't answer your question, we'll capture that question and 'tell' him the answer for next time!

For further information please contact:

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