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May 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.

## We're back....

The purdah period imposed on all public sector bodies like NHS East of England (NHS EoE) meant that we had to put down some of our communications tools when the election was called on 6 April. But the voting is now over and here is a roundup of the latest news from the Strategic Projects Team.

## Project Handover – mission accomplished!

The 1st April witnessed a new dawn as the newly expanded South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) came into force.

The final go-ahead for SEPT to take over Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) was given on 22 March as the Secretary of State issued the orders transferring all BLPT's assets and liabilities to SEPT and formally dissolving BLPT. The former BLPT and its service users now enjoy the benefits of Foundation Trust status that this alliance brings.

Having managed the competition process, we are obviously delighted that the transaction has reached its successful conclusion. Innovation was key, in the designing of the process, the treatment of its stages, and the bids we received. SEPT had to compete with others to demonstrate firmly that it was best placed to take over BLPT. The process underwent

a detailed external approval and checking process from bodies including the Department of Health, Monitor, the Co-operation and Competition Panel, user and carer representatives and staff.

We would like to thank all the parties involved for their enthusiasm and commitment for driving this acquisition forward.

## Inaugural Transforming Pathology board meeting

The SPT is working with commissioners and providers to implement the Carter recommendations in the region. The Transforming Pathology Project Board held its first meeting on 1 April, and members explored the group's terms of reference, a project initiation document and the need for a services data collection exercise.

Malcolm Nudd, Business Transformation Manager with South London Healthcare NHS Trust, gave a presentation on the transformation of pathology services for three hospitals within the same NHS Trust in South London.

Minutes of the meeting, along with a list of board members, can be found in the SPT's pathology information centre at [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects).

The Board is jointly chaired by Anna Dugdale (Chief Executive, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

and Dr Paul Zollinger-Read (Chief Executive, NHS Cambridgeshire), reflecting the project's shared leadership between commissioners and providers. We are delighted to be managing this challenge and thank everybody who has contributed so far.

## The Hinchingsbrooke three

On 26 March, Circle, Ramsay Health Care UK and Serco Health, which is working with Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, were shortlisted for the next stage to apply for the unique franchise to operate Hinchingsbrooke hospital.

The three organisations have qualified to participate in the second stage of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) part of the tender. The ITPD is a two stage process where bidders are individually invited to meet with representatives from NHS EoE, the commissioners, hospital staff and others to propose solutions to making the future of Hinchingsbrooke hospital sustainable. Circle, Ramsay and Serco were shortlisted from five organisations which made submissions on 15 February following ITPD1, the first stage.

The ITPD2 tender documentation was issued on 12 April, and bidders must submit their bid responses for evaluation by 29 June. The ITPD2 evaluation process will be undertaken by a panel of subject matter experts and will consist of a number of bidder interviews, including one with the stakeholder panel sub group, and an assessment of written bid submissions.

In mid August the successful bidders will be invited to participate at Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage.

The timeline has shifted a little to accommodate three bidders, as it was originally anticipated that only two would reach ITPD2 stage. To have three good prospects is excellent news. Visit [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects) to find out more. It is currently planned that the preferred bidder will be announced early in October, subject to approvals.

## Gateway confidence

On 25 and 26 March, the Department of Health's Gateway Review team were invited to scrutinise the delivery of the HNS project.

We received an Amber delivery confidence rating, which we are very pleased with, given the highly innovative nature of the transaction. Amber indicates that the review team considered that "successful delivery appears feasible". An independent audit, conducted at around the same time, delivered a similar endorsement of the robustness of the evaluation stage for ITPD1 submissions.

## Time to get to know the bidders

The Hinchingsbrooke bidders will be giving presentations at the forthcoming stakeholder panel meeting on 26 May, telling participants a little more about their organisations, their ethos, skills and experience.

In the real drive for transparency in the HNS project, the bidders have also contributed an article each to the next edition of Next Steps News, due later this month, and will be giving presentations to hospital staff.

Due to rigid procurement rules, they will not of course be able to divulge the actual contents of their bids (which are still subject of negotiation) but these are real opportunities for bidders to personally present their organisations to stakeholders.

Please check the SPT's website for more information about the latest stakeholder dates and venues [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects).

## Welcome back

Sonya Farooq is re-joining us for the next few months to support new project initiations, and Patsy Ryan is also back helping with new stakeholder management and marketing. Both have previously supported us on BLPT.

## Strat facts

- The April HNS Project Board pack ran to 20 documents
- The estimated no of bidder dialogue hours so far is over 127!
- The Strategic Projects Team is used to the unexpected but bidders grounded in Australia because of volcanic ash was a new one! (we rescheduled).

**For further information please contact:**

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