

November 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 challenged 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.

Preferred and reserve bidders announced for BLPT

After six months of ground-breaking, innovative and extremely tough competition, NHS East of England announced on 29 September that South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) is the preferred bidder for Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT). Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT) is the reserve bidder. In April this year, NHS East of England's unique approach to the project attracted more than 20 NHS organisations to express an interest. In June, four of the country's top NHS Foundation Trusts who had successfully pre-qualified, were invited to submit bids. Twenty four evaluators from the local NHS, Local Authorities, and service users' and carers' organisations evaluated each bid using an exacting scoring system.

A two-month external approvals and advice process is now underway, involving the Department of Health's Transaction Board, the NHS Competition and Co-operation Panel and Monitor (the independent regulator of Foundation Trusts). Subject to the outcome of their findings, a contract will be signed with SEPT at end of November 2009.

A spokesperson from Unite union told a local newspaper that the move was a very positive one. He added: "We don't expect any job losses and there will be better management and the quality of services for patients will improve." Dr Stephen Dunn, Director of Strategy at NHS East of England said, "We were extremely impressed with the quality of the bids. We are confident that SEPT's bid will secure high quality

services for people living in Bedfordshire and Luton. This has been an extremely robust and transparent competitive process, where we have combined uniquely the innovative spirit of the NHS with the commercial rigour of the business world. Best of all, we have ensured that local people will receive the highest quality services and delivered the best value for taxpayers", he added. Alison Davis, BLPT Trust Board Chair said, "I am delighted that all our hard work has resulted in the choice of an excellent Foundation Trust to work with our local communities and take our mental health, learning disabilities and social care services into a bright future".

Hinchingbrooke franchise opportunity launched

A notice asking for formal applications from potential partners for Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Huntingdonshire was placed in the official journal of the European Union (OJEU) and on the NHS Supply2Health website on 26 October 2009. The unique competitive process proposes that clinical and non-clinical services at the hospital be provided via an operating franchise agreement with an experienced healthcare provider from the NHS, independent or third sectors. It ensures that a full range of high quality acute hospital services – including A&E and maternity - will continue to be provided for local people at Hinchingbrooke, as agreed by the 2007 public consultation.

Hospital staff and assets will continue to be fully owned by the NHS and will not be transferred to the preferred bidder.

We want your views

We really want to know what you think about our plans and the way our projects are progressing. Your views will help to develop the projects and ensure that we get the best outcome for patients, the public and tax payers.

Hinchingbrooke stakeholder panel

An independently-chaired Stakeholder Panel has been set up to represent the interests of local people and Hinchingbrooke Hospital staff at every stage of the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project. The Panel is chaired by David Monks, Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council. This Panel has an active role to play throughout the process and will be involved in securing the preferred bidder. Andrew MacPherson, Director of Strategic Projects at NHS East of England said: "We are fully committed to a transparent and inclusive process for the benefit of all stakeholders."

The next public meeting of the Stakeholder Panel will take place on 26 November 2009 from 2pm until 5pm at Huntingdon Library, Princes Street, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3PA. An agenda for the meeting is available from www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects along with details of Stakeholder Panel membership. Each meeting will be advertised locally in advance so that as many people as possible can attend to observe the work of the Panel and contribute. Media representatives are also invited to attend these meetings.

Come along to the Stakeholder Panel's public meetings:

- 25 Feb 2010 Hinchingbrooke House, Assembly Rooms, Huntingdon
- 26 May 2010 Hinchingbrooke House, Assembly Rooms, Huntingdon
- 5 July 2010 Hinchingbrooke House, Assembly Rooms, Huntingdon
- 27 October 2010 Huntingdon
- 6 Jan 2011 Hinchingbrooke House, Assembly Rooms, Huntingdon

Please check website for times and further details.

Have you checked our website?

More details about all NHS East of England's strategic projects and information about the Strategic Projects Team is available from www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects. You can also ask the team any questions about the current projects and register your views via this website. For specific information about the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project, please see the Hinchingbrooke sub section.

New Freephone number and Freepost address for you to use:

A Freephone number and Freepost address has been set up so that people can contact the NHS East of England's Strategic Projects Team directly with their views or queries about Hinchingbrooke, or any of the projects being managed by the team.

The number to call is **0800 923 3001**.

The address to write to is: **Strategic Projects Team
NHS East of England, SHA
Victoria House
Freepost, RRLU-YTGH-RZYL
Capital Park, Fulbourn
CB21 5XB**

Hinchingbrooke Communications Alliance established

A cross-team Communications Alliance was set up this month to work together on the communications and public involvement issues of the Hinchingbrooke project. The Alliance members include the communications leads for Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust, NHS East of England, NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Community Services and Huntingdonshire District Council. The Alliance will also provide expert communications advice to the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps Project Board.

Strat facts!

Did you know.....

- More than 1200 files of estates information were handled during the BLPT bid?
- The BLPT project was brought by the SPT, Trust, Commissioners & Stakeholders from invitations of Expressions of Interest to selection of preferred bidder within an astonishing six months?
- So far, there are more than 3500 separate actions in the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps Project Plan.

Comings & goings

Tanya Parry has finished her three month contract with us on planning, thank you Tanya. Welcome, Samantha Sherratt who joins us to lead Communications and David Procter who will be Hinchingbrookes Trust lead.



For further information please contact:

✉ **Enquiries: strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk** ☎ **Tel: 0800 923 3001** 🌐 **www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects**