



September 09

# Strategic Projects News Update

NHS East of England's Strategic Projects 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.

## We are open for business

### Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust

Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) is making history as the first NHS Trust to put itself up for merger with an established NHS Foundation Trust (FT).

More than 20 NHS organisations expressed an interest in BLPT in April 2009 and four FTs have been shortlisted: Hertfordshire Partnership NHS FT, South Essex Partnership University NHS FT, Camden and Islington NHS FT and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS FT. The final bids must be submitted by the end of August and a full evaluation process will be undertaken.

The successful bidder will be announced at the end of November 2009.

### Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust

The local NHS in Cambridgeshire has started the process of finding a new partner to run Hinchingbrooke Hospital. This is the first step to making good on the promises made to local people after the public consultation on the hospital's future in 2007.

NHS East of England, with Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust and local Commissioners, are running a national competitive process - open to NHS and Independent Sector organisations - to find the best partner for the hospital. This is the first transaction of its kind in the NHS. The process will be overseen by the local Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

An innovative Stakeholder Panel has been set up to assist in running the process and choosing the successful bidder.

The process is expected to take 18 months starting from September 2009.

## What's New

- Four Foundation Trust bidders have been shortlisted in the Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust project.
- The Department of Health have given support to NHS East of England submitting a full business case for setting up an Operating Franchise Model for Hinchingbrooke Hospital.
- An innovative, independently-chaired Stakeholder Panel has been set up to participate actively in the Hinchingbrooke project. First meeting to be held in September 2009.

## Highlights

- Leading the Way in the East of England.
- Several 'firsts' for partnership and innovation in the NHS.
- Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust is first in the country to put itself up for merger with an established NHS Foundation Trust.
- Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust is first in the country to run a competitive process of this kind - which is open to NHS and Independent Sector bidders - to manage acute hospital services.
- Broadest possible inclusion of stakeholders in the bid and transaction process.
- From Invitation for Expressions of Interest to Recommended Bidder in less than six months.

# Partnership working for positive change in the East

NHS East of England Strategic Projects Team pro-actively works with stakeholders to optimise inclusion and contribution to the bidding processes. To ensure the best possible outcomes we also ensure bidders meet and relate to those commissioners they may work for in the future.

An excellent example of this partnership working in action was the recent bidders question and answer session for the Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) project that took place at Bedford Borough Council's headquarters.

As part of the bidding process, each final bidder was offered a half-day session with a panel consisting of two local PCTs, three Local Authorities, BLPT Directors and staff representatives and members of NHS East of England Strategic Projects Team. This panel has been involved from the beginning in developing the offer and evaluating the bids. Service users' and carers' representatives, together with the

strategic projects team and the local NHS, will meet with the final bidders early next month.

These meetings will inform some of the questioning for a final Bidder Board interview on the 10 September 2009. Once a recommended bidder has been chosen there is a further scrutiny by Commissioner Boards, The Trust, Project Board, NHS EoE and the Competition & Co-operation Panel before endorsement is sought by FT Regulators, Monitor and the Department of Health.

Andrew MacPherson, Director of Strategic Projects at NHS East of England said: "The collaborative nature of the work on the BLPT project has been key to its success. I am confident that the best bidder will be chosen to take BLPT into the future because stakeholders have worked so closely together".

## Links

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cambridgeshire/8210803.stm>

<http://www.hinchingbrooke.nhs.uk/page/our-services/>

<http://www.blpt.nhs.uk>

<http://www.eoe.nhs.uk>

## Below: Trust, Commissioners, Staff and the Strategic Projects Team gather at Bedford Borough Council to interview bidders for BLPT.



From left: Ian Fuller (BLPT), Georgina McGee (BLPT), Trish Donovan (BLPT), Martin Peat (SPT, NHS EoE), Liz Bradley (Deloitte's), Frank Toner (Bedford Borough Council), Peter Loose (Bedford Borough Council), Alison Davis (BLPT), Paul Groome (Central Bedfordshire Council), Jess Lievesley (NHS East of England), Dr Hameen Markar (BLPT), Andrew MacPherson (SPT, NHS EoE), Parbinder Kaur (SPT, NHS EoE), Chris Harris (NHS Bedfordshire), Richard Winter (NHS Bedfordshire), Karen Malone (NHS Luton).

### For Further information please contact:

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