

Monday 10 October 2011

## **Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee**

### **Update**

### **Organisational futures - Potential merger of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust with The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust**

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The following provides an update for members of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee regarding the potential merger of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust with The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

#### **1. Developing an Outline Business Case**

After discussion with NHS London, the timetable for the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) was extended and will now be completed by the end of October, rather than the end of August.

The Outline Business Case for the proposed merger of the two Trusts will be presented to The North West London Hospital NHS Trust Board, held in public, on 2 November and Ealing Hospital NHS Trust Board meeting, held in public, on 4 November.

The timetable was extended to allow us to:

- articulate more clearly the benefits of integration, the vision for the new organisation and how it will operate from 'day one'.
- develop the clinical case for change and to conduct further work with local GPs on the vision for the future integration of acute and community services.
- take into account NHS North West London's emerging Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) plans. QIPP is a programme across the NHS designed to improve efficiency and quality, as well as reduce costs.
- enable further engagement with our stakeholders as we move forward with the development of the OBC.

We also received further guidance from NHS London regarding the level of financial detail required for the OBC and have extended the financial modelling for the OBC up to 2015/2016.

#### **2. Timeline**

If approved by the Trust Boards, the OBC will be subject to approval by NHS London's Capital Investment Committee on 17 November and it will also be reviewed by the Co-operation and Competition Panel.

The next stage of the process is the development of a Full Business Case (FBC) that will provide detailed information about the new organisation including the management of clinical services and a more detailed financial analysis. It will also include a detailed Post Merger Implementation Plan that is necessary to ensure the new organisation is created safely and delivers the benefits expected by the merger.

At the moment, we anticipate the Full Business Case (FBC) being produced between November and March 2012 with the merger planned for 1 July 2012 subject to the necessary approvals.

The Trust welcomes the opportunity to discuss the content of the OBC in more detail at Scrutiny Sub Committee in December.

### **3. Engagement and consultation**

The OBC will make the case for merger and organisational change. Although it will refer to potential for service change in the future (in response to likely changes in commissioner plans for services) it is not making the case for any significant service change. Any potential for future significant service change would be subject to the full separate statutory public consultation and scrutiny process which would be led by commissioners.

Any consultation on service change is likely to start in February 2012 and decisions by commissioners following this would be expected in September 2012.

There is no statutory requirement to consult with the public or other external stakeholder groups (except LINKs) on an organisational merger. Brent, Ealing and Harrow LINKs are members of the Programme Board which is overseeing the merger process.

A meeting has also been held with LINKs to discuss how they would like to consult with their members during the period after the publication of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and the development of the Full Business Case (FBC). We anticipate that LINKs will hold some form of public events for their members. The format and dates of these have yet to be agreed. The period of engagement will be around six weeks.

Whilst we do not have to formally consult on merger, our organisations have a commitment to be open and transparent and engage with external stakeholders and our staff as part of good corporate governance.

There are a range of events being planned for staff and both Trusts will continue to attend a range of external meetings to discuss plans for the merger going forward.

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