

Wednesday 31 August 2011

## **Brent Health Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **Update for meeting held on 20 September 2011**

#### **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 Brent Health Partnership Overview and Scrutiny 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, we have extended the timetable for the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and now anticipate that this will be completed in October, rather than the end of August.

We believe that extending the timetable will allow us to articulate more clearly the benefits of integration, the vision for the new organisation and how it will operate from 'day one'. It will also allow us more time to develop the clinical case for change and to conduct further work with local GPs and other key stakeholders on the vision for the future integration of acute and community services.

We have also had further guidance from NHS London regarding the level of financial detail required for the OBC and will be extending the financial modelling up to 2015/2016. The extended timetable will also enable us to 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.

Finally, this additional time will enable further engagement with our stakeholders as we move forward with the development of the OBC.

We are working through how this extension in the OBC timetable will impact on the overall timescale for merger and, if approved, what the timeline would be for the new organisation to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

## Appendix 1

At the moment we anticipate the Full Business Case (FBC) being produced between March and May 2012 with the merger potentially occurring between July and October 2012.

The OBC will make the case for merger and organisational change. Any potential service change highlighted within the OBC would be subject to the full separate statutory public consultation and scrutiny process which would be led by commissioners.

### **2. Deliberative events**

As members will be aware we held three deliberative events (across Brent, Harrow and Ealing) for local stakeholders at the end of May and beginning of June this year. The events were an opportunity for local stakeholders to find out more about why we are considering a merger and to express their views at an early stage.

A company called Participate Ltd were commissioned to design, and facilitate these events, and pull together a report detailing the main findings, themes and issues raised. This report is on our website and was distributed to participants and other stakeholders in July. This report and its recommendations have been accepted by the Programme Board (established to oversee the potential merger process).

The views expressed at the events are also being used to help inform the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and any future communication and engagement plans. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank people for attending. Given that the events were held in the evening, many people gave up their own personal time and for this we are very grateful.

**Fiona Wise**  
**Chief Executive**  
**The North West London Hospitals**  
**NHS Trust**

**Simon Crawford**  
**SRO, Programme Board**

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