

STRONGER *together*

Friday 28 September 2012

Update on the proposed merger of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust and The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust for Brent Health Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report provides an update on the proposed merger of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust (EHT) and The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (NWLH).

The Full Business Case

The final Full Business Case (FBC) has been submitted to NHS London to the agreed timetable (10 September 2012). It continues to show that new organisation will deliver a 1% surplus of £5.2m by 2015/16.

The content of the FBC remains largely the same as when we published the draft version in June but has been updated to reflect feedback from NHS London and the due and careful enquiry process. Some of the key changes are highlighted below.

- Updated executive summary to reflect the revised timetable for merger which is now planned for 1 April 2013
- Updated performance information to incorporate April - June 2012 (chapter 3)
- Latest position with NHS North West London commissioning strategy and consultation on Shaping a Healthier Future (chapter 4)
- Technical updates to the finance chapter to take into account the latest operating plans and a refreshed narrative to reflect feedback on the draft FBC (chapter 8)
- Some refinements to chapter 9 on governance in line with feedback and a clearer Board subcommittee structure
- Some refinements to chapter 11 on integration and implementation plan
- A summarised version of the updated implementation plan to reflect a 1st April 2013 merger date (appendix 11.2).

The following standalone documents were also submitted to NHS London:

- The Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Action Plan
- The merger implementation plan from the workstreams.

The NHS London assurance process and the due and careful enquiry (DCE) refresh have now both re-commenced with a target completion date of early October. Assuming these processes progress as planned the final FBC and the final DCE will be presented to Trust Boards for approval in mid-October at exceptional Board meetings followed by the NHS London Board on 25 October. The Trusts are now working to the proposed merger date of April 2013.

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Shadow Board

To ensure we are in the best possible place for day one of the new organisation and beyond, we are moving towards as much joint working as is possible and sensible ahead of the merger.

An important part of this is creating a shadow board, which both Trust Boards have agreed to do in phases, and we established a joint shadow executive team in September. These are temporary arrangements and there will be a separate process to appoint to substantive roles in the merged organisation at a later date. The focus of the shadow executive team will be on progressing the merger and future planning for the new Trust, so that the transition is as smooth as possible.

Julie Lowe and David McVittie continue in their roles as chief executives of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust and The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

Following both Trust Boards' approval of the final Full Business Case a full shadow board will be established. This will include a designate chairman and non-executive directors.

Simon Crawford, Senior Responsible Officer
Ealing and North West London Organisational Futures Programme