

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (JHOSC)

1 October 2007



JHOSC Response to Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust Application for NHS Foundation Trust Status

Report of the Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose

1. To agree the JHOSC's response to the consultation document from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust re: their application to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

Information

2. Members of the JHOSC received a presentation on NHS Foundation Trusts from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust on 2nd July. The consultation began 9th July and ended 29th September.

- i. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust was formed in April 2006 to provide a range of mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services for the 1.4m people living in County Durham, the Tees Valley and North East Yorkshire. They also provide a range of specialist services to other parts of northern England.

They employ more than 5,000 staff, working from over 100 sites as well as directly into local people's homes. They spend over £200m a year on providing their services.

- ii. It is Government policy that all NHS trusts which achieve certain standards for the quality of their services and use of resources should become FTs – Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust has achieved these standards. But they also believe that becoming an FT will help to achieve their vision and aims for the future.
- iii. FTs are public benefit corporations operating like mutual organisations, such as the Co-operative supermarket or some building societies. They are still part of the NHS but are free from direct Department of Health control.

They have:

- Greater accountability to local people,
- More flexibility to address local needs and improve services,
- The ability to improve partnerships and provide more opportunities to work together to improve local services,

- More financial freedom to generate and retain surpluses, and decide how that money should be invested in local services,
- The ability to borrow – within agreed limits – to invest in new services and facilities.

iv. Each FT has three main components:

- A membership – drawn from service users, carers, staff and the population the trust services. Members elect representatives to act as Governors.
- Council of Governors – made up of the elected governors chosen by the membership, and appointed governors representing partner organisations, such as local authorities, and other NHS trusts. They represent the interests of the members and partner organisations, and hold the Board of Directors to account for the running of the organisation.
- Board of Directors – made up of executive and non-executive directors responsible for the strategic leadership and day-to-day running of the trust.

v. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust propose having two elected categories of membership – public and staff.

- Public – They want to reduce stigma attached to the services they provide, and the people they support. So they propose integrating service users and carers into their public membership, to anyone aged 14 or over who lives in the areas they serve.

They propose grouping members into seven constituencies depending on where they live e.g. County Durham and North East Yorkshire. Each would be represented on the Council of Governors by one governor per 50,000 people.

- Staff – They propose that all staff automatically become members, although they will have the right to opt out.

They also want to include staff who, although not directly employed by the trust work closely with them, e.g. social care staff working in integrated teams.

They propose sub-dividing the staff constituency into eight groups or classes. Each would elect one governor to sit on the Council of Governors, apart from adult mental health and substance misuse services which would have two representatives.

Staff Views

As part of the trust consultation;

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust have posted 30 events internally,

- have engaged with over 1,700 people in these events (demonstrating that the approach is more successful than the traditional approaches to consultation e.g. a number of public meetings)
- have issued over 100,000 FT consultation leaflets
- have translated the leaflet and membership forms into three languages - Urdu, Chinese and Polish
- The Trust Board invited the PPI Forum to a meeting on 23 August to present the Foundation Trust proposal
- Based on comments from the PPI Forum they have arranged a number of separate events for users and carers
- have contacted the Chief Officer's of all the local authorities asking if they wanted a separate meeting with each of their management teams (only one has so far requested such a meeting)
- have so far received 23 comments from the consultation. Of these 21 are from their staff in regard to the staff constitution. One has been in regard to FT and primary care and the other has been in regard to the sub categories of the constitution.
- have to date recruited nearly 400 members.

Recommendation

3. Members are asked to note the application for Foundation Trust Status, and support the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust the application as this is in line with government policy.

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