

# Your Care, Your hospital, Our Passion becoming an NHS Foundation Trust ...an update for stakeholders

## Welcome

I am delighted to bring you this update on the Southampton University Hospitals Trust Foundation Trust application, which is now entering the important pre-DH submission phase.

Our Integrated Business Plan and its appendices will be submitted at the end of January and we are putting the final touches to a plan that will provide an excellent platform for our future as a foundation hospital.

At the same time, our public consultation is entering its final weeks and we have been encouraged by the high level of support our plans are receiving.

We still need your views on our plans and you can send those in an email to me at [ft@suht.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:ft@suht.swest.nhs.uk)

This update will be issued regularly during the course of our application and I would be grateful if you could share it with your staff.

Kind Regards  
Mark Hackett, CEO

## Successful launch event kicks off consultation

On 15th October 2007, SUHT held a launch event for its key stakeholders to officially mark the beginning of a 12 week public consultation.

The consultation document, "Your Care, Your Hospital, Your Passion" was introduced by Trust CEO Mark Hackett and Medical Director Professor William Roche.

your care  
your hospital  
our passion



## 'Go For It'!

Mary Edwards, Chief Executive of Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust also spoke about her hospital's very positive experiences of becoming a Foundation Trust and urged SUHT to "go for it".

Another speaker was the Chair of the Trust's Staff Partnership Forum, John Elliott who pledged to continue the constructive relationship between the Trust and the staff representatives and promised to continue asking the hospital's senior managers some difficult questions.

Many local NHS organisations were represented, as were voluntary organisations and the hospital's staff. A question and answer session covered many interesting points about the future of hospital services in the City.



Southampton   
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## High turnout at staff engagement workshops

During November, the hospital ran a series of Foundation Trust workshops for staff.

Attendance at the workshops was excellent and in some cases larger rooms had to be found to accommodate the high numbers.

As a result of the workshops, a list of frequently asked questions was issued addressing everything from Agenda for Change to the role of members in the FT.

As well as open workshops, the Foundation Trust team visited individual departments to take questions and explain more about the process.

## Governance update – Patient group for the Channel Islands

Early feedback on the consultation has indicated that the hospital should create a special group to involve its patients from the Channel Islands.

The islands rely on SUHT as their main regional specialist centre, but since they operate outside of the NHS legislation prevents their residents from joining the public constituency of a Foundation Trust.

Once a Members' Council is elected, the Foundation Trust will task it with making sure that the Channel Islands are effectively involved in the hospital through patient links.



## Get members! Recruitment campaign steps up a gear

The hospital has launched its campaign for members with two new initiatives.

The “Red Team” is a group of staff and volunteers who are visiting outpatient clinics around the hospital to talk to patients as they wait for their appointments.

With their bright red t-shirts the team is making a big impression and encouraging service users to get involved in the Foundation Trust as a member.

At the same time, staff are being encouraged to help their friends and family register as members. A “staff get member” draw has been organised and staff who sign up members will be entered into a prize draw for a Christmas Hamper.

Alison Ayres, Head of Communications and Engagement said: “We want as many people as possible to have a say in the way the hospital is run and it is essential that our patients register to become members.”

“Family and friends of staff are also important because they will already have a good understanding of the hospital and its challenges and opportunities.”

In an effort to ensure we are giving everybody an equal opportunity to comment and become involved, we are having our summary consultation document translated onto audiotape and CD so that if preferred, people can learn about the application in spoken word. Anyone who would like a copy can request one from the Foundation Trust Office via telephone: 023 8079 5199 or via email: [ft@suht.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:ft@suht.swest.nhs.uk)



# Frequently asked questions

Here are some of the questions we have been asked at meetings.

If you have any further questions please send them to [ft@suht.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:ft@suht.swest.nhs.uk)

**Q – What power does Monitor have as the regulator if the hospital starts to get into financial trouble?**

A – Although the FT will be free from central government control, it will instead be given a licence to operate by a body called Monitor, which is the independent regulator of FTs.

Every Foundation Trust is issued with Terms of Authorisation that are published on the Monitor web site. This sets out the conditions the hospital must meet to continue operating as a Foundation Trust.

Monitor also publishes a risk rating for every Foundation Trust showing how it is meeting its obligations in the Terms of Authorisation regarding finance, governance and mandatory services.

On the rare occasions that a Foundation Trust fails to meet its financial targets Monitor has considerable powers to act and ultimately could remove the Board of Directors.

**Q – What difference will this make to the way the Trust makes financial decisions?**

A – Finances will be much more transparent in the FT because Monitor requires us to have a clear understanding of every service we operate on a simple profit and loss basis. This means that decisions to open new services or expand existing ones will be better planned, more sustainable and based on a clear understanding of the true cost and income associated with the service.

In terms of making capital investments – to build new wards for example – we would have greater freedom to take out loans from outside the NHS to pay for schemes. However, Monitor would need to be satisfied that we had sound repayment plans for the lifetime of any loans.

Monitor also sets a financial borrowing limit in the terms of authorisation of the Foundation Trust.

**Q – Is this privatisation through the back door?**

A – No. Foundation Trusts are ‘business-like’ in the way they operate but they are not private businesses.

Monitor grants a licence to operate as a Foundation Trust on the basis that the hospital fulfils its obligations to provide NHS services to NHS patients. It will monitor our capacity and capability to provide the hospital services that we have committed to in our contracts with primary care trusts.

A strict limit is placed on the amount of income a Foundation Trust can earn from treating private patients.

FTs place great emphasis on their role as ‘public benefit corporations’, meeting the health needs of the local community and accountable to the public through the Members’ Council.

**Q – How will the Foundation Trust involve younger people?**

A – Anyone over the age of 16 can apply to become a member but as a major provider of children’s services we will need to engage with children below this age limit.

We see the involvement of younger people as a key role for the Members’ Council (that will be formed in the spring of 2008) to take on but would be interested to hear any ideas staff have for involving our young patients more in hospital life.

## Public Meetings

The next two opportunities for the public to hear about our plans are listed below.

• **Thursday 13th December – 6 – 8pm**

Southampton Voluntary Services, The Voluntary Action Centre, Kingsland Square, St Mary Street, Southampton.

• **Monday 17th December – 6 – 8pm**

Crossfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey.