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**Meeting** Health and Well-Being Board

**Date** 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**Subject** **Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust – Progression to achieving Foundation Trust Status**

**Report of** Interim Chief Officer – NHS Barnet

**Summary of item** The Health and Well-being Board are asked to comment on the options that are being explored by Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust regarding the selection of a partner to support the Trust acquire Foundation Trust status.

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**Officer Contributors** Ceri Jacob, Interim Chief Officer

**Reason for Report** The Health and Well-Being Board has a role in overseeing the health and social care system to encourage integrated services and ensure they are properly joined up around the needs of patients. Any mergers or changes to major providers should be considered by the Health and Well-being Board to consider the implications for the delivery of integrated services in Barnet

**Partnership flexibility being exercised** None

**Wards Affected** All

**Appendices** None

Contact for further information: Ceri Jacob, Interim Chief Officer, NHS Barnet, 020 8937 7632

## **1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 For the Chairman of the Barnet Health and Well-being Board to prepare a written position for consideration by Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust Board and the Royal Free Foundation Trust Board in October 2012 regarding the potential partnership between the two organisations.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND WHERE HELD**

- 2.1 None

## **3. LINK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP-WIDE GOALS (SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY; HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY STRATEGY; COMMISSIONING STRATEGIES)**

- 3.1 Any partnership between NHS organisations needs to have regard to the local NHS Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention Plan (QIPP) for Barnet and the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy. The achievement of the clinical strategy has been set as a key success criteria in the evaluation framework.

## **4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any new organisation will need to consider how it will respond to the needs of the residents and patients that it serves. An equalities impact assessment will be included as part of the work to develop the strategic outline case referred to in paragraph 9.6 below.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 There is a risk that failure to align financial strategies across health and social care, financial and service improvements will not be realised and or there will be cost shunting across the health and social care boundary. The financial planning group has identified this as a key priority risk and is being mitigated by work to align timescales and leadership of improvement plans which affect both health and social care through the HWBB.

## **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board must be mindful of the broad statutory target duty in section 2B of the NHS Act 2006 imposed on the local authority by s12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The duty is owed to the population at large and the local authority must act reasonably at all times in the exercise of those functions. Regulations setting out the details are yet to be issued by the Government. Consideration will need to be given as to how the potential partnership between Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust Board and the Royal Free Foundation Trust Board will facilitate the discharge of the local authority's functions.

## **7. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS- FINANCE, STAFFING, IT ETC**

- 7.1 The evaluation criteria specifically includes a section on financial benefits. Given the challenged financial position of the Barnet health economy, it is essential that any new Foundation Trust has sufficient critical mass to support a shift in activity away from hospital based care to community based care without affecting the organisation's overall financial viability.

## **8. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH USERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 8.1 The Cabinet Member for Public Health and the Director of Adult Social Care and Interim Director of Children's Services have been advised of the plans and invited to comment on the evaluation criteria.
- 8.2 The Barnet LINK has observer status as part of the evaluation process ensuring that patients views are fed into the evaluation process.

## **9 DETAILS**

- 9.1 At the July Meeting of the Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, the Trust agreed that it was not possible to bring together a credible financial case given expected pressures in the next few years and that in order to maintain progress on implementation of the BEH Clinical Strategy and the focus on quality and access, it would be more appropriate to seek an organisation to partner with. . The Trust Board confirmed that it wished to seek expressions of interest from NHS organisations which it could partner with to become a viable and successful Foundation Trust into the future.
- 9.2 On 17th August 2012 the Trust issued an "Invitation to Apply" letter, final draft Questionnaire, Information Memorandum and draft Heads of Terms to the three organisations that had expressed an interest. Organisations had until 31 August to formally confirm their intention to submit.
- 9.3 The Royal Free Foundation Trust was the only organisation who formally confirmed their intention to submit a proposal and work has been undertaken during September between both organisations to explore whether a viable larger Foundation Trust can be created from bringing together the two organisations, in order to achieve patient, staff and financial benefits.
- 9.4 Despite the Royal Free Foundation Trust being the only organisation to express an interest, the Trust in conjunction with NHS London has required that a full evaluation is undertaken and clinicians and managers from both organisations have been working closely during September to develop the evidence of the patient, staff and financial benefits that could arise through such a partnership.
- 9.5 The Royal Free Foundation Trust was required to submit a detailed response to the evaluation questionnaire which would form the basis of formal evaluation, by an evaluation panel involving Barnet CCG with Barnet LINK as an observer. The evaluation panel will meet on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 and will produce a report setting out the recommendations regarding the way forward for consideration by Barnet and Chase Farm Trust Board on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 and the Royal Free Foundation Trust Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2012.

9.6 If both Boards are in agreement that this partnership will deliver the patient, staff and financial benefits anticipated, then a strategic outline case will be prepared for consideration by the Trust Boards and NHS London.

9.7 Changes to management arrangements will not affect the BEH clinical strategy, which will be taking place over this period

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust Board Papers – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012. These are available online - [www.bcf.nhs.uk/about\\_us/trust\\_board\\_meetings/meeting](http://www.bcf.nhs.uk/about_us/trust_board_meetings/meeting)

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