
Meeting	Health and Well-Being Board
Date	31 January 2013
Subject	Royal Free Hospital _ proposed acquisition of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital
Report of	Chief Officer, Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group
Summary of item and decision being sought	This report updates the Board with regard to the current position over the proposed acquisition of the Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust by the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust, and the Board are asked to note it.

Officer Contributors	John Morton, Chief Officer, Barnet CCG Andrew Nathan, Strategic Policy Adviser, LBB
Reason for Report	The Health and Well-Being Board were previously advised of the proposals at their meeting on 4 October 2012 and subsequently commented. This report provides an update as requested on the latest position.
Partnership flexibility being exercised	N/A

Wards Affected All

Contact for further information; John Morton, Chief Officer, Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group

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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Health and Well Being Board note and comment on the current position.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND WHERE HELD

- 2.1 Health and Well-Being Board- 4 October 2012- progressing to achieving Foundation Trust status (item 4)
- 2.2 Health and Well-Being Board- 29 November 2012- Forward Work Plan (item 9)

3. LINK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP-WIDE GOALS (SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY; HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 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.

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 Health and Well Being Board, which includes representation from the Council, NHS and wider community through the LINK, was invited to comment and considered this matter at its 4 October 2012 meeting.

9. ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH PROVIDERS

- 9.1 This matter relates to the organisational structure of key providers.

10. DETAILS

- 10.1 The Board at its meeting on 4 October 2012 received a report on options being explored by Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust regarding the selection of a partner to support the Trust acquire Foundation Trust status.
- 10.2 The Board was informed that the Royal Free Foundation Trust was the only organisation who formally confirmed their interest in exploring whether a viable larger Foundation Trust could be created between the two organisations, and commented that the proposal could present an opportunity for establishing close clinical links across the whole Borough of Barnet which would benefit the Borough's residents.
- 10.3 The Chairman agreed that she would present these views to the Royal Free's Council of Governors and the Board agreed to prepare a written response to the report setting out their position to Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust and the Royal Free Foundation Trust Boards.
- 10.4 At the last meeting, the Chairman requested that an item be placed on the agenda for this meeting to discuss developments in relation to the proposed acquisition of the Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust by the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust.
- 10.5 A verbal update will be provided on the latest position and the next steps.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None