

## Our Foundation Trust Application – Outcome of the Consultation

The formal consultation on our plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust closed on 30 September 2007.

The aim of the consultation was to gain views and suggestions on our plans for Foundation Trust Status to enable us to develop our final proposals to operate as a Foundation Trust. The consultation also allowed us to outline what becoming a Foundation Trust will mean.

The consultation was not a vote on whether we should become an NHS Foundation Trust.

### How We Consulted

- Media Launch held on 10 July
- Distribution of 16,000 Consultation Documents (including feedback form) throughout catchment areas
- Seven Public Meetings held
- Letter sent to all key Stakeholders
- Meetings held with 23 Stakeholder/Community Groups
- 22 Staff Briefings took place
- Attendance at 8 Community Events/Festivals
- Information Given out in Town Centres and at Hospital Open Day

Feedback was recorded at all public, staff and stakeholder briefings and in addition 133 formal responses were received.

### Feedback

The overwhelming tone of responses was supportive and positive. Written responses to the specific questions we asked showed broad support for our FT Application proposals. In general, the main issues which attracted support locally were:

- Greater local accountability through membership and governors
- The Opportunity for the public to offer feedback and comment
- The comparatively small size of the proposed Council of Governors
- The proposed geographical make up of the Council of Governors.

Some people were concerned FT status would lead to more layers of management.

### Membership Age.....

A more mixed response was received to the proposal for setting the membership age as 12 (although a majority were still in favour of this proposal). Following further discussion at Trust Board to this issue, it has been agreed to maintain the age as 12. As a Trust we feel that it is appropriate for the children who use our services to have a say in how we deliver those services. However, we recognise that we will need to review and further develop our communication and engagement with younger members.

### What Would You Like to See Us Achieve.....

One of the questions asked during the consultation was ‘What one thing would you like to see us achieve within our first three years as a Foundation Trust?’

The Key themes were:

- Reductions in Waiting Times
- Providing easy access to service for those patients who live further away from hospital (including those in rural areas)
- Evening and weekend clinics and operations
- Improving the way staff communicate with patients
- Reducing infection rates
- Reducing car parking charges

The Trust has responded to this feedback by ensuring that all of the above areas are included within our 5 year business plan.

### **The Trusts Name.....**

The consultation also asked for views on a name for the new Trust (which will need to change to include "NHS Foundation Trust"). Discussion with staff and at public sessions highlighted a preference for including "Great Western" into the Trusts name – but also a preference for maintaining Swindon as a geographical reference. The Trust Board has taken account of these views and is proposing that, on achievement of Foundation Trust status the organisation will be called: Swindon Great Western NHS Foundation Trust.

### **Our Staff....**

General support was given to the proposal for staff (including Trust volunteers and Carillion Health staff) to automatically become members but be able to "opt-out" of membership if they wished.

Few concerns were raised regarding the consultation proposals. Staff members were keen to understand how FT status would affect terms and conditions and how FT status would support improvements in delivering quality.

## **Next Steps**

Our Application for Foundation Trust Status (which includes a full summary of feedback from the consultation) will be submitted to the South West Strategic Health Authority on 31 December 2007. With approval from the Health Authority this will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Health on 28 January 2008.

We anticipate holding elections for Governors during April 2008 – and will be delivering briefing sessions for people who may be interested in being Governors during March and April 2008.

We hope to be authorised as a Foundation Trust during 2008.

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