

APPENDIX B

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 3 FEBRUARY 2009

Title:

A PROPOSAL FOR FOUNDATION TRUST STATUS FOR THE ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL

**[Portfolio Holder: Councillor Bryn Morgan]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

The Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford has applied to the regulator Monitor, to be authorised to be set up as an NHS Foundation Trust. This report describes the issues involved and the relevance to Waverley.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The Royal Surrey County Hospital is the largest hospital healthcare provider for south-west Surrey and has a significant impact on improving lives of our residents. A Foundation Trust status will open up the possibility for increased value for money in relation to the expenditure of public money on health related issues.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

A characteristic of an NHS Foundation Trust is that it has a membership component which is drawn from the public and patient members as well as staff members. This has the effect of improving inclusion by ensuring consultation with users and staff.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

There are no specific resource implications for Waverley but the NHS Foundation Trust proposal could well ensure local people have a voice within the Trust and so local needs are more closely reflected.

Legal Implications:

The potential appointment of a Waverley Councillor to the Council of Governors may have legal implications for Waverley dependent upon the capacity of the person appointed and the capacity in which advise to the Trust was being given. It is not expected that the representative would be appointed as a Trustee.

Background

1. The Royal Surrey County Hospital is the major provider of hospital healthcare services for south-west Surrey and beyond. Its patients are mainly drawn from the districts of Guildford, Waverley, Woking, Chichester, East Hampshire and Mole Valley. The hospital provides health treatment to over 200,000 outpatients each year and some 55,000 patients are admitted with nearly 60,000 patients being treated by the accident and emergency department. With 528 beds and 14 operating theatres and an annual expenditure approaching £200 million, this is a very significant local facility and local business employing some 2,800 staff.

What is an NHS Foundation Trust?

2. An NHS Foundation Trust has three distinct characteristics. First, a membership drawn from the general public and patients of the area it serves, together with staff members. Secondly, a Council of Governors responsible for the membership strategy, the representation of the membership, the communication with members and to act in an advisory role and to be responsible for the stewardship of the Trust. Thirdly, a Board of Directors, which manages the Trust on a day-to-day basis, is responsible for long term planning and for raising standards of performance.
3. The application to become an NHS Foundation Trust has to be submitted to Monitor which is the independent regulator, whose role is to ensure that the Trust will be well managed and financially stable in order to maintain high quality standards for patients. Monitor both authorises the application and regulates the Trust.

What will be the consequences?

4. Currently, the Royal Surrey County Hospital is accountable to the Department of Health through the Local Strategic Health Authority which is NHS South-East Coast. This means that local decisions have to be authorised centrally. With NHS Foundation Trust status there will be greater freedom to determine local priorities in relation to healthcare provision and also greater freedom in respect of financial control so that any surplus generated by the Trust will be available for reinvestment locally. Most importantly, the Trust is directly accountable to the membership and the elected representatives on the Council of Governors.

What will this mean in reality?

5. The vision of the hospital in relation to Trust status includes the following proposals:-
 - To extend and develop cancer services
 - Bringing the hospital into the communities it serves in line with recent recommendations about closer to home delivery of services
 - Collaborating closely with neighbouring hospitals

- Developing specialist services which are oral and maxillary facial surgery, orthodontics and ear nose and throat
- Extending the research partnership with the University
- Growing the centre of excellence for minimal access surgery
- Reducing hospital acquired infections
- Improving car parking

And for Waverley itself?

6. In respect of the Council of Governors it is proposed that three representatives are drawn from the public and patients of Waverley (also three from Guildford and Woking and two each from Chichester, East Hampshire and Mole Valley) and that one of the thirteen appointed Governors is from Waverley Borough Council (another one each from Guildford and Woking). The public and patient Governors will be resolved through an election process, the appointed Governors, including the Governor from Waverley Borough Council, will be nominated by the Councils.
7. The main role of the Governors will be to advise the Trust Board of Directors, to act as a guardian of the Trust for the local communities and to appoint the Chairman and non-Executive Directors of the Trust.

Conclusion

8. The additional freedoms that NHS Foundation Trust Status will provide are to be welcomed in terms of improvements to healthcare in south-west Surrey and beyond, increases in capacity in being able to utilise surpluses, as well as local clarity of direction without central reference. The proposal will also provide the opportunity for democratically elected and accountable individuals to have a significant role in the governance of the trust and this is to be welcomed. The membership, drawn from local communities, patients and staff is also a distinct advantage in that this will ensure meaningful local representation and consultation in the management of the Trust. For these reasons it is proposed that Waverley supports the Royal Surrey County Hospital's application to Monitor to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive supports the application by the Royal Surrey County Hospital to become an NHS Foundation Trust and asks the Chief Executive to communicate this support to the Chief Executive of the Hospital.

Background Papers (SDCS)

“achieving more together” – A consultation on Foundation Trust status

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