

ITEM: 3

MEETING: Trust Board
19 September 2007

TITLE: Foundation trust application update

SUMMARY: The attached report provides a further progress report on the FT application. The 2nd iteration of the Integrated Business Plan was submitted to the Department of Health and SHA on 13 September.

Monitor has revised the model core constitution and the initial Whittington draft constitution has been updated to reflect these changes. Bevan Brittan solicitors has made further modifications to the Whittington's draft constitution and these are included for review and approval by the Trust Board

ACTION: For information and approval

REPORT FROM: Fiona Elliott
Deputy Director of Strategy & Performance

SPONSORED BY: Susan Sorensen
Director of Strategy & Performance

Financial Validation Lead: Director of Finance	N/a
Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance Lead: All directors	N/a
Compliance with Healthcare Commission Core/Developmental Standards Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development	Reference: N/a
Compliance with Auditors' Local Evaluation standards (ALE) Lead: Director of Finance	Reference: N/a
Compliance with requirements of FT application and monitoring regime Lead: Director of Strategy & Performance	Reference: Monitor/DoH guidance

Foundation Trust Project Update

1.0 Application timeline

- 1.1 The table below provides a reminder of the four-phase application process with key milestone dates.

Phase	Period	Activity
1	29 th September 2007 July to end December	Completion of consultation period. Trust Open Day and Annual Public meeting Wednesday 26 September Membership recruitment drive
2	1 November	First stage application submission to Secretary of State. Integrated Business plan including governance arrangements, constitution, public/staff engagement and membership strategy.
3	2 November December 2007 End December	Historical due diligence assessment by independent accountants Secretary of State decision on whether to put forward for Monitor assessment
4	January – March 2008*	Monitor assessment including Board to Board Election of Council of Members 1 st April authorisation (target)*

Although this is an indicative timetable, the period of Monitor assessment could well be extended depending on Monitor's capacity to assess the number of applicants reaching that stage.

2.0 Membership development

- 2.1 This is an important element of the pathway to Foundation Trust status in ensuring that our stakeholders – patients, public, staff, commissioners, voluntary and statutory agencies - are supportive of our service strategy and governance proposals. The consultation and membership recruitment strategy has been developed in two phases. From July to October the focus is on consultation and recruitment. From November to January the focus will be on recruitment of members and targeted approach to those people who have indicated an interest in election to the Members' Council.
- 2.2 Initial feedback from the SHA and DoH suggests that Monitor is placing increasing emphasis on membership and the extent to which it reflects the local population. We have revised our target trajectory and are now working to recruit 2,000 patient/public members by 1 November and 4,000 by 1 January 2008. Directors and senior managers have an important part to play in encouraging all staff to recruit as many members as possible.
- 2.3 We have recruited a professional canvasser onto the staff bank and this is proving particularly successful in recruiting members who are well informed

about foundation trust status and what our application will mean for the future of the Whittington.

- 2.4 A programme of both staff and public consultation meetings is in place with particular attention to communicating with “hard to reach” groups. We shall also exploit opportunities provided by local events including the Muswell Hill Festival, the Finfest and, as part of the Building for Babies appeal, the Celebrity cricket match on 16 September.
- 2.4 The plans for the open day on 26th September are now well advanced, culminating in the Annual Public Meeting of the Trust. There has been an impressive response to the call for stalls, displays and presentations. This is an additional opportunity for membership recruitment.
- 2.5 We are confident that we will achieve 2000 members by 1 November and are now planning phase 2 of the membership campaign.

3.0 Integrated Business Plan (IBP)

- 3.1 Progress in developing the IBP is on target and the 2nd draft of the IBP was submitted to both the DH and the NHS Provider agency on 13 September. Initial feedback has stressed the need for the IBP to be more commercial in tone and to demonstrate a challenging Cost Improvement Programme and significant financial surplus.
- 3.2 3rd draft is due for submission mid October and it is our intention that this draft is reviewed in the October Trust Board. Trust Board members will receive the IBP in advance of Board papers to provide sufficient reading time.
- 3.3 First stage application submission to Secretary of State is due on 1 November following changes to the IBP that will result from Trust Board, DH and NHS provider agency feedback.

4.0 Constitution

- 4.1 The model core constitution has recently been revised by Monitor. Bevan Brittan (BB) solicitors were commissioned to review and update the initial Whittington draft constitution to reflect changes made by Monitor. BB have included provisions within the initial draft constitution, previously approved by the Trust Board which are specific to the Whittington and therefore will need to be approved by the SoS and Monitor. This is not unusual and there is provision for inclusion of Trust specific provisions in the constitution.
- 4.2 BB has made recommendations for some changes to the initial draft Whittington constitution. Appendix 1 describes the sections, which require Trust Board review and decision in response to the queries listed

Trust Board is asked to note the current position on the Foundation Trust application, to confirm approval for recommended changes to model core constitution and to agree the process for approving the IBP submission on 1 November.