

ITEM: 5

MEETING: Trust Board Meeting – Wednesday 18 January 2006

TITLE: Update on the proposal to achieve delivery of sterile services from an accredited sterile services unit for the Whittington Hospital

SUMMARY:

This paper provides the Trust Board with an update on plans to deliver sterile services to the Whittington Hospital from an accredited unit.

Board members will recall that a decision was taken to align the Trust with the national strategy to centralise sterile supplies units into sector-wide super centres and in July 2003, the Trust Board agreed to the proposal to utilise the sterile services unit at Royal Free Hospital.

Consultants, Tribal Secta have now completed further detailed work. The recommendation from their project work is that the Trust joins a consortium made up of acute and primary care trusts in the North West London sector.

This option has been discussed at the Executive and Hospital Management Board, and is brought to the trust Board with a recommendation for acceptance.

ACTION:

The Trust Board is asked to support the recommendation to;

- The join the NWL consortium project for decontamination services
- Confirm Mike Lloyd as the project director sitting on the NWL project Board

REPORT FROM: Philip Ient – Director of Facilities (Decontamination Lead)

SPONSORED BY: David Sloman – CEO



1. Introduction

In 2003, national guidance on the standards to be achieved in the delivery of sterile services was published. Under the strategy Trusts are required to deliver sterile services from accredited units by 31 March 2007. Accredited providers must meet the standards set out in the Medical Devices Directive 93/42 EEC. The current Sterile Supplies Department was given an amber status in 2002, and although investment in the unit continues to be maintained, compliance and accreditation are not possible without significant further investment. This was recognised in July 2003 when the Trust Board agreed to support an initiative to move services to the Royal Free Hospital.

2. The current position

Since that decision was made, further work has been undertaken to ensure that the proposed transfer of service is one that is sustainable. This work carried out by Tribal Secta indicated that there might be a possible capacity issue at the Royal Free if they were to take on our work. This left the Whittington with the option of the NCL project to develop an off site, centralised sterile unit designed to handle the full capacity of the sector.

Work carried out by Tribal Secta on behalf of the North Central London SHA recommended a centralised solution. However, NCL trusts were unable to achieve consensus on approach. As a consequence the north of the sector opted to join with a Hertfordshire based NHS consortium and Trusts in the south determined to pursue individual options. The Whittington was therefore left to explore what options were available to achieve compliance.

3. The Tribal Secta project

In April 2005, Tribal Secta were engaged with a brief to assess the Trust options for the future of the service and to recommend a solution that delivered a sustainable service that met the requirements of the national strategy.

The recommendation of Tribal Secta, supported by the Decontamination Committee is to confirm this Trusts intention to join the NWL project and to ask the project director for the NWL scheme for inclusion in his consortium.

Analysis of projected workload, and feedback from the NCL project team indicates that the revenue cost of an off site service should be containable within current budgets. Further, by working with the NWL consortium, we will have access to capital to provide additional instrumentation required to meet turn around times required by our operating theatres. The timing to join their project is ideal. The NCL consortium requires formal notification of the Trust Board decision, and the name of the executive director who will sit on the NCL project board by the end of January 2006.

The Executive Team and Hospital Management Board support this decision, and recommends that **Mike Lloyd** be the trust representative on the NWL project Board.
