

ITEM 2: FOUNDATION HOSPITALS

Foundation Hospitals – Officer Notes for 12th November 2003 discussion

The following recommendations are for discussion at the meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny sub-committee meeting on the 12th November.

Some recommendations are presented under the title of *principles* in recognition of the fact that they will come too late to influence the Trusts' consultation processes over the governance arrangements for Foundation status. Instead, the committee may wish to recommend to the Executive that it requests that these principles are adhered to by the hospital trusts for any future consultation of a similar type.

Consultation

1. Whilst recognising it is an externally imposed deadline, a two-month consultation process for such change is not acceptable. The scrutiny sub-committee recommends that the Executive request that the Hospital Trusts acknowledge this when submitting their proposals to central government.
2. That the Council supports the Trusts in using all eight Community Councils for their consultation in partnership with Social Services, the voluntary and community sectors and the PCT.
3. That the Council offers its advice to the Hospital Trusts on running elections, if/when the Trusts are required to undertake elections.

Principles

- Carry out wide consultation with the local population who will be affected by any changes.
- The Council will offer its help with future consultation processes.
- Carry out consultation with all the employees in both Trusts, including full information being provided to the employees.

Governance

1. The Members' Council or Board of Governors should have a majority of local members, who are representative of the area's social and ethnic diversity. This local representation should be reflected in the constitution of the Foundation Hospital Trusts.
2. The Foundation Hospitals should ensure that their flexibility to reward staff does not adversely affect other players in the local health economy, such as the PCT.

Financial Implications to the Local Authority and the PCT

1. The long-term contracts with the PCT, resulting from Foundation Trust status, need to be flexible enough to respond to changes in local need.

Service delivery under Foundation Hospital status

Principles

- Local patients must have priority for all medical and specialist services over national and international patients.
- A two-tier system must not be encouraged.
- The quality of treatment and care must be to an acceptable standard for all patients.

- Transport facilities to patients between the Hospital Trusts must be improved and provided by the Trusts.

Communication between the Hospitals and the Council's scrutiny function

Principles

- Both Trusts must communicate directly with the Health and Social Care Scrutiny sub-committee on all decisions that have an impact on the local authority and local people including the reconfiguration of services.

The Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee would like to make a note that the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee established communication with both Trusts at the beginning of this year, drew a line under all decisions taken before January 2003 and requested to be informed of all decisions thereafter. However, the consultation on the governance arrangements for the Foundation Hospital Trusts did not come through to this scrutiny sub-committee.