

King's Health Partners

Update for Southwark Health Scrutiny Committee - 1 May 2013

King's Health Partners has achieved much since we came together as an Academic Health Sciences Centre four years ago. We have established Clinical Academic Groups to bring people together who are experts in their field - whether that's cancer care, dementia or diabetes - to offer patients the very best care and treatment, based upon reliable research evidence that it works. In doing so, we aim to provide high quality healthcare to people in south London whilst developing new treatments that will benefit people locally, nationally and internationally.

However, the way our partnership currently works is complicated because it involves three different NHS organisations with different structures, cultures and ways of doing things. As the Committee is already aware, for some time the partnership has been exploring the idea that it may be able to achieve more for patients – and achieve it more quickly – by creating a new academic healthcare organisation.

This paper provides an update on developments since February 2013 when the King's Health Partners Board agreed to develop a Full Business Case to consider options for organisational change.

Developing a Full Business Case

A Strategic Outline Case was published in July 2012. We are now preparing a more detailed Full Business Case (FBC) which will test a range of organisational models that could help us achieve our vision. One option open to us is that we create a single academic health organisation by merging the trusts and strengthening integration with King's College London. Initiatives short of a three-way merger are also being considered.

A dedicated delivery team has been set up to develop the FBC, led by William McKee, Director of Transformation and Delivery. It is being overseen by the King's Health Partners Board and the FBC Steering Group, a subset of the Partners Board [**see Appendix**]. Work is currently underway across eight working groups to develop a robust review of the possible benefits of creating a new organisation and to outline the financial case.

What happens next?

Over the next few months we will be looking to involve as many staff and other stakeholders as possible in discussions about the case for change. The feedback we gain will form part of the Full Business Case which will be produced by Autumn 2013. Each of the NHS Foundation Trust Boards and the equivalent body within King's College London (the College Council) will then decide how it wants to proceed.

We are clear that any form of organisational change is only worth doing if it improves our ability to bring clinical services, research and education more closely together for the benefit of the patients and local communities we serve.

If the idea of merging is proposed and agreed by each of the partners, it would then be subject to scrutiny by Monitor and the Office of Fair Trading (and possibly the Competition Commission). This means that the very earliest any new organisation could be established, if approved by the regulators, would be the beginning of 2015.

We look forward to working with you as we develop our plans.

King's Health Partners, April 2013

Appendix

King's Health Partners Board membership:

- Prof. Sir Robert Lechler, Executive Director, King's Health Partners
- Lord Robin Butler, Chair, King's Health Partners
- Sir Rick Trainor, Principal, King's College London
- Ian Creagh, Head of Administration and College Secretary, King's College London
- Gus Heafield, Acting Chief Executive, South London and Maudsley, NHS Foundation Trust
- Madeliene Long, Chair, South London and Maudsley, NHS Foundation Trust
- Tim Smart, Chief Executive, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Prof. George Alberti, Chair, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Sir Ron Kerr, Chief Executive, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
- Sir Hugh Taylor, Chair, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust