

Shropshire and Staffordshire Area Team
Anglesey House
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Staffordshire
WS15 1UL

20 May 2014

Dr Caron Morton, Accountable Officer/Joint SRO, Future Fit Programme
Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

David Evans, Accountable Officer/Joint SRO, Future Fit Programme
Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group

Dear Caron and David

Re: FutureFit Strategic Sense check actions

Thank you for your attendance and presentation at the strategic sense check held on 2 May 2014.

The strategic sense check is the first stage of the assurance process for major services and reconfigurations as described in the document "Planning and delivering service changes for patients" which was first published by NHS England on 20 December 2013.

We reviewed the comprehensive evidence pack submitted prior to the meeting and focused discussion on the content:

- 4 tests
- Programme governance
- Activity
- Finance Modelling.

The Area Team congratulates you and your team on the hard work and tremendous progress made to date, in particular the impressive clinical engagement throughout this process and continued ongoing support.

We recognise there is still a significant amount of work to do and you have acknowledged realistic timescales for a public consultation period, commencing May 2015. The Area Team sees this as a continuous process and one that we want to support you with, working to a sensible time period.

There will however be a requirement for NHS England to undertake a further Assurance Checkpoint prior to undertaking public consultation. The broad requirements for the business case to underpin the Assurance Checkpoint are set out on page 24 of the document “Planning and delivering service changes for patients”.

Through discussion at the meeting, the following areas were highlighted as requiring further work between now and the Assurance Checkpoint:

- Further clarity on the case for change, being more explicit about ambitions and outcomes for local patients and wherever possible these should be quantified. You will also need to be clear that the case for change has been agreed by the Governing bodies of the CCGs.
- A long list of options will need to be agreed along with criteria as to how they will be evaluated.
- Appropriate work is undertaken to ensure that the options being considered for consultation are subject to a full equality impact assessment.
- Acknowledgement of the need to commission financial modelling to support proposals. This will need to be undertaken in detail for all of the options that will be consulted upon and will need to cover capital requirements and flag how capital will be accessed.
- Clarity on the activity modelling which sets a common baseline and a set of assumptions which can be reconciled at both commissioner and provider level.
- Ensure consultation and other programme documents cover and describe community care, social care and articulate the GP as a provider and what it means to them.
- Ensure the Welsh commissioners in Powys are linked into governance arrangements and communications strategy.
- The Area Team has offered to review and offer advice in regard to your engagement and communication strategy. It would be helpful to you to keep an audit trail to demonstrate how patient and public involvement is shaping the development of options and the criteria by which they will be evaluated. We suggested you agree ‘touch points’ to review the engagement process.
- The outcome of the clinical senate review will form a key part of the clinical assurance process. We proposed that you agree the terms of reference for this review with the Area Team Medical Director.
- The business case and consultation document should describe how the new models of care will augment patient choice.
- Governance arrangements still require clarification; particularly arrangements for final decisional making, we acknowledge you are taking further legal advice on this and want to be assured of the process agreed.
- Transition plans and risks need to be clear and agreed with SaTH, Shropcom and TDA, and implemented alongside the Future Fit programme.
- Interim sustainability of services at SaTH sits outside the programme but with close linkages. Can you clarify how and where being taken forward.

We also agreed that the Area Team would review the draft scope of the emergency care centre three potential options and feasibility study. To be shared with Area Team for review and advice before moving to the pre-consultation stage

To conclude, we are impressed with the work undertaken to date and with your continued determination to succeed. Our role is to be supportive in this process and help you reach this achievement. If there is anything else we can assist with please do not hesitate to contact Liz McCourt or Hayley Gresswell by email via liz.mccourt@nhs.net and h.gresswell@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Urwin', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Graham Urwin
Area Director – Shropshire & Staffordshire