

Our Ref: VT/AFH

By email:

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Dear Simon and David,

Re: Future Fit Shropshire Touch-point Meeting

Thank you for your attendance at the 30 August 2017 Touch-point meeting for the Shropshire Future Fit Programme, and for the preparation and presentation from your Team. This meeting follows the Strategic Sense Check Stage 1 Assurance meeting held on 2 May 2014, as part of the assurance process set out in guidance issued by NHS England (Planning, assuring and delivering service change for patients).

The purpose of this meeting was to review progress and to determine the level of assurance/approval required prior to implementation of the Shropshire Future Fit programme. Specifically:

- Exploring the case for change and level of consensus for change
- Ensuring that potential risks are identified and mitigated; and that options are feasible
- Ensuring that high-level capital cost and revenue affordability implications are being properly considered
- Confirming that assessment against the 'four tests' is ongoing and other best practices tests are being applied proportionally
- Understanding how the proposals can support a reduction in admissions and importantly how the proposals will improve key constitutional performance measures
- This letter sets out the view that the NHS England DCO panel formed following our meeting and the necessary next steps prior to the stage 2 formal assurance panel meeting.

We recognise the significant work undertaken across the system to get to this point. We noted the planned timeline for a public consultation period, commencing October 2017, subject to approval by NHS England.

Following the joint review by NHS England and NHS Improvement of submitted papers and discussion at the Touch-point meeting, the following areas are highlighted as requiring further consideration and/or work prior to the Regional Assurance Panel on 2 October 2017:

- Use the Executive summary to 'tell the story' ensuring a clear articulation of the rationale for change, the changes planned, the impact on service users and patients, and the financial impact
- Clearly describe the new community models of care, and be explicit about the anticipated outcomes for service users and patients
- The PCBC need to describe in more detail on impact of future primary care providers due to this service change
- The consultation document will need to describe how new models of care will support patient choice
- Articulate how the system is working together with WMAS in planning the service change
- Include letters of support from key stakeholders within PCBC
- Articulate the rationale for the proposed 89% bed occupancy given that the national ambition is 85%
- Given the current A&E performance, further assurance must be provided regarding the proposed bed reductions
- Describe how delivery of constitutional standards will be improved as part of the acute reconfiguration
- Include the financial narrative/story presented in our meeting within the PCBC
- Refresh and refine the financial modelling to provide assurance regarding overall affordability
- Describe the interface and phasing in relation to the planned disinvestment of community beds
- Articulate the capital story (£124m or £196m)
- Articulate the governance arrangements moving forward and the remit of the Joint Committee verses the respective CCG Governing Bodies

In summary the panel concluded its support for the direction of travel, and that the system is ready for the regional assurance panel planned for 2 October 2017. It is crucial however that you refresh the PCBC to ensure it addresses the points noted above, most importantly that it tells the story of the planned change and impact.

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 we can assist with over the coming weeks please do not hesitate to contact my team.

I would be grateful if you could share this letter with colleagues who attended with you.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Poynor
Director of Commissioning Operations (North Midlands)

Copy: Nigel Littlewood, Regional Head of Strategy and Planning