

NHS Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin CCG Future Fit Joint Committee

Principles for Joint Working

Given the transformation task necessary over the coming years, it is recognised by all parties that complex and difficult decisions lie ahead if the Future Fit Programme is to succeed in delivering the improvements to care and to health that we seek for the populations we serve. There are several potential trade-offs which cannot be avoided. In every one of these there will be a balance to be found, but one which can never satisfy every individual interest:

The 'common good' (for all who look to services in this geography for their care) versus the individual or locally specific good (the preferences of sub groups);

The present versus the future;

Organisational interest versus public interest;

One priority versus another when resources are limited.

It is the role of members of the Future Fit Joint Committee (FFJC) to reach decisions on these, and to do so transparently and objectively.

The Future Fit Programme is a collective endeavour. Working collectively, whilst still acting as separate statutory organisations, requires agreement on ways of working designed to help navigate through issues when it gets difficult and when the 'trade-offs' have to be decided jointly.

We have as a system as part of the STP Programme already agreed the following principle - we are therefore proposing the Future Fit Joint Committee will also hold themselves to account against this, and would ask others to do the same:

"We are concerned with the interests of all of the populations in England and Wales who use health and care services provided within the territories of Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, whilst acknowledging the specific planning footprint for the STP in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. We desire to maximise benefit for that whole population. Whilst our decisions seek to deliver the greatest benefit to the whole population we serve, we will always consider the consequences of any options for either specific local populations or for the needs of minority and deprived groups and will be explicit about how we weight these and our rationale for so doing."

Member Code of Conduct

The public has a right to expect appropriate standards of behaviour of those who serve on the Joint Committee. Members of the Joint Committee have a responsibility to make sure that they are familiar with, and that their actions comply with, the provisions of this Code of Conduct.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The general principles upon which this Code is based should be used for guidance and interpretation only. These general principles are:

- **Duty** - You have a duty to uphold the law and act in accordance with the law and the public trust placed in you. If you are a member of a public body, you have a duty to act in the interests of the public body of which you are a member and in accordance with the core functions and duties of that body.
- **Selflessness** - You have a duty to take decisions solely in terms of public interest. You must not act in order to gain financial or other material benefit for yourself, family or friends.
- **Integrity** - You must not place yourself under any financial, or other, obligation to any individual or organisation that might reasonably be thought to influence you in the performance of your duties.
- **Accountability and Stewardship** - You are accountable for your decisions and actions to the public. You have a duty to consider issues on their merits, taking account of the views of others.
- **Openness** - You have a duty to be as open as possible about your decisions and actions, giving reasons for your decisions and restricting information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty** - You have a duty to act honestly. You must declare any private interests relating to your public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Respect** - You must respect fellow members of your working group, treating them with courtesy at all times.

CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS

There may be times when members will be required to treat discussions, documents or other information relating to the work of the body in a confidential manner. Members may receive information of a private nature which is not yet public. They must always respect the confidential nature of such information and comply with the requirement to keep such information private.

All Programme information will be made public (except where it would be in breach of patient or staff confidentiality or of commercial interests). The timing of publication, however, is a matter for the CCG Boards to determine. Members of the Joint Committee are not at liberty to publish information provided to them by the Programme until such time as that information is formally published.

The limited sharing of Programme information by members of Joint Committee within their nominating sponsor/stakeholder organisation is permitted, however, and does not constitute

publication under this code. In such circumstances, members must ensure that those receiving the information understand and accept the responsibility not to make that information more widely known.

All Joint Committee members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before gaining access to such information.