

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

THURSDAY 27th APRIL 2006

The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust
Consultation on Application for NHS Foundation Trust Status

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Improved Health & Wellbeing
CORPORATE PLAN THEME	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY	Public Health
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Anne Hingley
HEAD OF SERVICE	Head of Planning, Health & Environment
CONTACT OFFICER	Mike Parker Extension 2500 Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	Appendix 1: Draft Consultation Response Appendix 2: Consultation Document (this document is available electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request - see front cover for details).

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To respond to the consultation on the future development of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust by 21st May 2006.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to decide:

- 2.1 **that the draft Consultation responses at Appendix 1 are agreed.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 NHS Foundation Trusts are a form of "Public Benefit Corporation" with the sole purpose of working for the benefit of the public rather than for individual or corporate profit. The Government has decided that all NHS Trusts should be able to move to become NHS Foundation Trusts by 2008. The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust aims to make this change by November 2006.

- 3.2 The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust is the main provider of acute hospital services to the people of Dudley. However, a fifth of services are delivered to people living outside Dudley in adjoining local areas, including Sandwell, Wyre Forest and South Staffordshire.
- 3.3 The benefits of becoming NHS Foundation Trusts can be summarised as:
- Freedom from central Government control in managing budgets and shaping services to respond to local needs
 - Having a legal duty to work with partners including PCTs and local authorities
 - Being overseen and regulated by an independent regulator, Monitor, set up by Parliament.
 - Accountability to NHS Commissioners, mainly PCTs through legally binding contracts, receiving a nationally agreed price for the work carried out (payment by results).
 - Having protected assets and services which cannot be disposed of against the wishes of members and governors
 - Having greater engagement with the local communities and partners through a scheme of public membership
- 3.4 The vision of the Dudley Group is to create “Your Hospital of Choice” with services delivered through Russells Hall Hospital, Corbett Hospital (in the south of the Borough) and Guest Hospital (in the north of the Borough).

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The NHS Foundation Trust will be accountable to members and will be governed by three main Groups – the members, the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors.
- 4.2 The Trust has set a target of 5,000 members by 2006, increasing to 10,000 over the next five years. There will be two categories of members, public and staff. Public members must live within the catchment boundaries of Dudley, Tipton, Rowley Regis, South Staffordshire and Wyre Forest and can include people who have been treated at the Hospitals, be a carer of someone receiving care at the hospitals or simply be interested in how the Hospital is run. Staff membership will be open to everyone who is employed by the Trust on a substantive contract or those on alternative contracts employed for 12 months or more.
- 4.3 The Council of Governors is responsible for ensuring that the Trust operates within the terms of authorisation agreed with Monitor. The Council of Governors will be made up of 19 public governors elected by public members, 6 staff members elected by staff members and 12 appointed Governors who will be appointed by their organisations to bring their particular expertise to the work of the Council. The Wyre Forest area would be represented on the Council of Governors by one elected Governor representing the area and one local authority Governor appointed by partner organisations representing Wyre Forest, Sandwell and South Staffordshire.

AGENDA ITEM NO 11.1.

- 4.4 The Board of Directors will take responsibility for providing leadership of the NHS Foundation Trust, setting the broad strategic direction of the Trust, approving the Council of Governors, implementing the strategy and providing high quality day-to-day management of the NHS Foundation Trust. It is proposed that the current Chair, Non Executive Directors, Chief Executive and Executive Directors are appointed to the Board of Directors for continuity. The Chair and Non Executive Directors would serve out the remainder of their current term of office or 12 months, whichever is the longer.
- 4.5 The Programme for becoming an NHS Foundation Trust involves submitting a final application to the Secretary to State for Health by 9th June 2006 and, if successful, to appoint Governors during August – October 2006 and establishing the NHS Foundation Trust from 1st November 2006.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this consultation.

6.0 LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal and policy implications as a result of this report.

7.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risks to the Council arising from this report.

8.0 CONSULTEES

CMT

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust “Consulting our Public – Seeking your Views on our Applications for NHS Foundation Trust Status” – Consultation Document 2006
- Summary Consultation Document – February 2006

MP/JHL
03-04-06