

MEDIA RELEASE

15 June 2012
ES/023/12

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland back Partnership's NHS Foundation Trust bid

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust which provided care for over 212,000 people in the area last year, has seen widespread support in its bid to become a Foundation Trust.

The Trust met with positive support after it launched a formal 12 week public consultation period involving staff, the general public, service users, patients and senior stakeholders.

The Government expects all NHS Trusts in England to become NHS Foundation Trusts by the end of March 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter. All NHS Trusts will be required to become a Foundation Trust or join an existing Foundation Trust.

The change will mean Leicestershire Partnership will have more control over its own finances, be more accountable to local people and be able to respond quickly to local demands from NHS commissioning bodies.

Chief Executive John Short said: "I want to thank everyone who helped refine our proposals. I have been really encouraged by the positive support we have received across the board – from the public, patients, staff, from our senior NHS and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland partners. Support was overwhelmingly positive for our vision and aspirations."

John added: "We believe that becoming an NHS Foundation Trust will help us to better meet the health needs of local people. Our vision is to become an integrated Foundation Trust with a passion for quality and excellence. As a NHS Foundation Trust we would remain part of the NHS, working to the same national standards as all other NHS service providers, and would continue to uphold the principles of the NHS Constitution, providing high quality care that's freely available according to need."

As well targeting the Trusts existing 9,000 members and senior groups from local authorities, NHS bodies, patient groups and the voluntary sector, over 80 meetings were held across the region, with a further 132 people also choosing to respond individually. The key findings from their responses were:

- 69% of individuals were in favour of the application to become a NHS Foundation Trust.
- 85% felt the proposed mission, vision, goals and objectives were what they would expect to see.
- 81% felt the priorities were consistent with their expectations of what they would like to see.
- 70% felt that 14 years of age was too young to become a member, and 45% of respondents also felt that 16 years of age was too young to become a governor.

Some of the changes made to the Trust's proposals were: additional staff representation on the proposed Council of Governors as well as additional representation for community partners such as the voluntary sector and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Trust will reactivate its bid to become a Foundation Trust by the end of June, and national assessment body, Monitor, will confirm the timetable for our assessment. It is hoped the Trust will obtain Foundation Trust status by the end of 2012.

Note to editors

1. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living in the city of Leicester and the neighbouring counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust serves a population of one million and has a budget in excess of £250 million and employs almost 6,000 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk/

Our mission: To advance health and wellbeing for you and your community

Our vision: To become an integrated Foundation Trust with a passion for quality and excellence

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