

January 2018 – Edition 4

Stakeholder update on the proposal to merge Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital

Following the submission of the Full Business Case (FBC) to NHS Improvement (NHSI) on 22 December, 2017, we have continued to develop our plans for Bedford and L&D Hospital to merge and become a new Foundation Trust on 1 April 2018.

Meetings between NHSI and the leadership teams from both Trusts have been taking place and more are planned for the coming weeks. These meetings provide an opportunity to talk through some of the detail in the FBC – the strategic rationale behind the proposal and our ability to deliver on our strategy. Also, how we expect to maintain or improve quality as a result of the merger and our plans to achieve a successful ‘transaction’ while minimising any risks.

Detailed discussions are also taking place around the financial case that has been put forward which will underpin our ability to realise the benefits of the merger. The proposal for capital investment at both sites is a critical element of our plan. We have submitted our business cases and are in dialogue with NHSI to progress this ahead of the merger.

The next part of this review and approvals process will be for NHSI to talk to other key stakeholders including the local CCGs. We expect to have some initial feedback on these discussions later this month. The FBC is a ‘commercial in confidence’ document while discussions are in progress, so we have produced two summary versions to highlight the key information contained within the FBC – an 8 page Public Summary and a more detailed Executive Summary. Both of these are now available via the Trust websites - www.ldh.nhs.uk and www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk

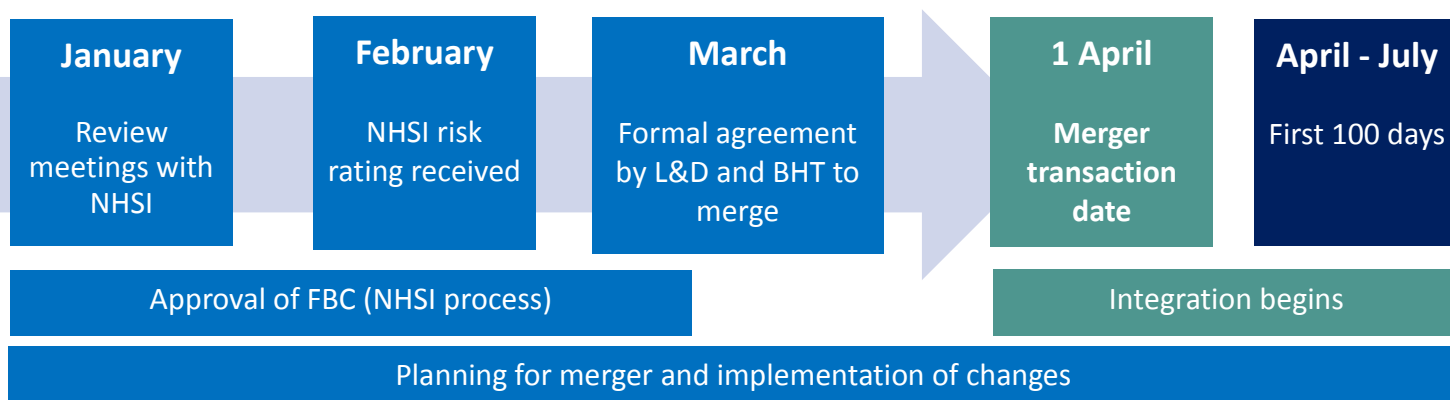


Our programme of staff, clinical and stakeholder engagement will continue as we develop our integration plans further. We told you in the last update that we held a number of public events in November. Both the presentations that were shared and the summary report from this activity are also available on the website. We were encouraged to find that this highlighted the same themes and concerns in relation to local hospital services as previous engagement undertaken through the STP and others, which are the foundations on which the proposal was developed. The main priority for people is to have core hospital services accessible locally. However, they may be prepared to travel further for specialist services. The merger proposal addresses these concerns and ensures that all decision making has remained patient-focussed and considers public views.

Engagement undertaken around the proposed name, Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, showed that it was well supported and this will now be considered by both Boards for formal approval in early February.

We expect the NHSI approval process to take between 8 – 10 weeks and continue to plan for Day One and beyond. On Day 1 there will be one integrated Board to lead the Trust and all staff will be a member of the newly integrated Trust. The Non- Executive Directors of the new Foundation Trust have been appointed and the Executive team structure has been approved. Other details in relation to the leadership and organisational structure are still being worked through and further updates will be provided in due course.

Key activity and timings



Call for Bedford residents to become new FT members

As a new Foundation Trust, we need a membership that reflects the population in which the two hospitals serve. The L&D is already an FT with 16,000 members however there aren't enough members from Bedford Borough to fairly represent the population. A recruitment campaign was launched in November and although over 500 new members have registered, more are needed.

FT Members have a say in how the hospitals are run, how healthcare is provided to patients and can voice their concerns or make suggestions about future plans. Initially people will be signed up to the L&D membership, however at the point of merger, membership will be automatically transferred across to the new integrated Trust. This is the best opportunity for the people of Bedford to have a say in the future of the new FT. If you are able to promote this within your own organisations or circles, please email merger@ldh.nhs.uk or visit www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk and click on the 'Proposed Merger and FT Membership' box on the home page.

We will continue to maintain ongoing communications with stakeholders and staff as we move forward with our plans. Information about the proposed merger can be found on both hospital websites www.ldh.nhs.uk and www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk or email merger@ldh.nhs.uk

Best wishes,

Stephen Conroy
Chief Executive, Bedford Hospital

David Carter
Acting Chief Executive, L&D University Hospital