

November 2017 – Edition 2

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

Since we last updated you in October, our teams have been working closely and at pace to develop a shared vision and to understand what an integrated Trust would look like. As you're aware, in order for the merger to proceed, we need to submit a Full Business Case to our regulators NHS Improvement (NHSI) and, with input and support from staff, volunteers and other stakeholders; we are still on track to do this by the end of 2017.

Clinical engagement is crucial in this planning process. The suggestions of our clinicians on how we can improve services for our patients, further develop collaborative working to enhance patient care and experience will be what we focus on in shaping some services. The first of our Clinical Engagement Events was held on 14 November and was well attended by clinicians from both hospitals. It was also a great pleasure to have Professor Stephen Powis, Medical Director at the Royal Free London Hospital and newly appointed National Medical Director for NHS England, attend the event to share his experience at the Royal Free and his insight into hospital mergers which was incredibly useful. Further Clinical Engagement Events are planned for the end of this month and early December.



Prof. Stephen Powis



Although both hospital sites will retain their individual names, the integrated NHS Foundation Trust will have a new name. Both Trust Boards have discussed this and given that this integrated Trust will enhance services for the whole Bedfordshire population, we are considering the suggestion of **Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**. We envisage that, as in the case of Addenbrooke's which is officially called Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Bedford Hospital and the L&D will continue to be known by these names to their local communities. We want to know what you think of this – do you like it? Have you any other suggestions? Please share your views via [this online survey](#). All suggestions are nationally required to be based on the local geographical patch.

We have continued to share updates and progress with our staff on a weekly basis and also plan to engage with patients, residents and other stakeholders to see what thoughts they have. We will have an opportunity to do this at three public information events starting next week.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Thursday 23 November 2017	11am to 12pm	Social Club, L&D Hospital LU4 0DZ
Friday 24 November 2017	3pm to 4pm	Lecture Theatre, Bedford Hospital MK42 9DJ
Wednesday 29 November 2017	6pm to 7pm	Lockyer Suite, Rufus Centre, Flitwick MK45 1AH

These events will be very similar to updates and discussions we have had with you when the proposed merger was announced, and are intended to give the local community a chance to hear information we have shared with you previously - why the merger has been proposed, what we see as the benefits, how our plans are progressing etc – and of course, a chance to ask questions and share their views which we will capture and feedback to the Joint Integration Board. It would be very helpful for us if you could share the above event details via your public communications channels to ensure as many people are aware as possible.

We are also actively recruiting Foundation Trust members to ensure that we have the right representation across Bedfordshire in preparation for Governor Elections that will take place once the integrated Trust is formed. Foundation Trust membership is free and does bring with it some benefits, including a chance to shape services, access to very popular medical lectures and the option to stand as a Governor, so we would encourage you to sign up. For more information on becoming a FT Governor please [click here](#). To sign up, please [click here](#).

The opportunities the merger presents are considerable and we will endeavor to keep you updated about progress on a regular basis. However, if you have any additional queries or would like to discuss anything in person, please feel free to contact us via merger@ldh.nhs.uk

Information about the proposed merger can also be found on both hospital websites www.ldh.nhs.uk and www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk

Best wishes,

Stephen Conroy
Chief Executive
Bedford Hospital

David Carter
Acting Chief Executive
Luton & Dunstable University Hospital