

December 2019 – Edition 9

## Stakeholder update on the merger of Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital

Planning for the forthcoming merger between Bedford Hospital and the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital (L&D) continues at pace. Both Trusts have been working extremely hard to ensure we stay on target and the good news is we have now submitted the Full Business Case to allow the final approvals process to begin.

Below is the current timetable both Trusts are currently working to for the merger. This has previously been shared but is added again for your reference.



## Public Briefing Sessions

Engagement with all of our stakeholders is critical in ensuring a successful merger, along with providing reassurance that this is a strategic merger and **not** one to solely achieve financial savings. As such we have scheduled some Public Briefing Sessions to invite all external stakeholders to hear about our progress with the merger plans and ask questions directly to members of the Executive Teams from both Trusts.

Please feel free to join us at one of the below sessions to hear more about our progress to provide an integrated health service to the people of Bedfordshire and beyond.

- 16 December, Lecture Theatre, Bedford Hospital, MK42 9DJ - 5.30pm to 7pm
- 17 December, COMET Lecture Hall, L&D Hospital, LU4 ODZ - 2.30pm to 4pm
- 20 December, Rufus Centre, Flitwick MK45 1AH - 9am to 10.30am

It would be very helpful for us (especially for refreshments purposes) if you could register your attendance by dropping an email to either [communications@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk) or [communications@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@ldh.nhs.uk) alternatively you can call us on 01234 792687 or 01582 718290.

We would also be grateful if you could share these dates through your organisation's communications channels to help achieve optimal attendance at each location.

## Facts about the merger

In order to assist with some recent stakeholder queries about the merger, we thought it would be helpful to include some key facts about our plans.

- The recent capital funding bid approval of £99.5m was for the L&D Hospital. This merger has always been reliant on this capital funding bid approval in order to realise the full benefits of the proposed plans. This means the L&D can proceed at pace with the delivery of a new 5 storey acute services block at the Luton site to enable urgent replacement of some of the site's most outdated estate. This is incredibly important and necessary to patient and staff experience by delivering new facilities for critical care, maternity services, the level 3 neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) and operating theatres.
- Bedford Hospital recently received approved funding for a new CT scanner which was one of the planned investments listed in the hospital's *Three Year Operational Plan* along with the development of a new Learning and Education Centre for students and staff. Plans to develop services at Bedford through a number of proposed capital investment projects (Children's A&E, Theatre upgrades etc.) will be more achievable to fund as an integrated Foundation Trust in financial surplus.
- The new name of Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was unanimously supported by both Trust Boards in February 2018, following engagement with staff, public and stakeholders which showed that this was the preferred option.
- Key clinical services such as A&E, Obstetrics-Led Maternity and Paediatric Units **will remain** at both hospital sites.

## Why not become a member?

As a Foundation Trust we will be accountable to our local community. As plans progress steadily to merge both hospitals, we are looking to expand the Foundation Trust membership to include people across the whole of Bedfordshire and surrounding counties to ensure our membership represents the population both hospital sites serves. It is free and easy to become a member and you can influence the way your local hospital is run. Anyone who is 16yrs or over and live in Bedfordshire or surrounding counties can register for membership. To find out more and apply please visit [www.ldh.nhs.uk](http://www.ldh.nhs.uk)

## Governors – What they do and how you can become one

As a member, you will hear about the important role that Governors play but you may not know exactly what they do and how people become one. Every Foundation Trust will have a Council of Governors which is made up of elected members of the public, members of staff and appointed representatives.

Governors do not undertake operational management of the hospital but they challenge the Board of Directors and hold the Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) to account for the Trust's performance. It is also the Governors' responsibility to represent the Foundation Trust members' interests.

Governors must be FT members; they must be aged 16 or over and live in the relevant constituency. Staff and volunteer Governors must be current staff or volunteers of Bedford Hospital.

In readiness for the final approval of the merger in March 2020, an election will be called in January 2020 when people from Bedford Borough (and its surrounding counties) put themselves forward to stand as Governor and members vote the Governors in. There will be another election process in May 2020 to elect governors in the Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire constituencies.

If you are interested in finding out how to become a Governor why not attend one of our Governor Awareness sessions. We are holding two Governor Awareness briefing sessions at Bedford Hospital giving you the opportunity to find out more about the Governor roles and provide you with information regarding the procedure on how to apply to be a Governor.

- **10 January 2020, Committee Room, Bedford Hospital MK42 9DJ**
  - **10am to 11am OR**
  - **6pm to 7pm**

Please let us know if you are interested in attending any of the above sessions by emailing Anne at [FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders for their continued support and If we are unable to see you at one of the above Public Briefing Sessions, we wish you all a merry Festive period and a happy New Year.

Best Wishes,

**Stephen Conroy**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Bedford Hospital**

**David Carter**  
**Chief Executive**  
**L&D University Hospital**