

October 2019 – Edition 8

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

Incredible progress has been made with the plans to merge Bedford Hospital and the L&D Hospital since our last Stakeholder Newsletter. You will be aware that the capital funding bid for the L&D Hospital has now been confirmed. This merger has always been reliant on the capital funding bid approval in order to realise the full benefits of the proposed plans.

The approved £99.5m of funding 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of a new 5 storey acute services block at the Luton site to enable urgent replacement of some of the site's most outdated estate.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 will make a real significant difference 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's *Three Year Operational Plan* highlights a number of planned investments to the site which includes a new CT scanner and a new Learning and Education Centre for students and staff. In addition, there are also plans to develop services at Bedford through a number of proposed capital investment projects (Children's A&E, Theatre upgrades etc.). These will be more achievable to fund as an integrated Foundation Trust in financial surplus.

## Merger timescales

Both Trusts will be working towards 1 April 2020 to officially merge. However it is important to clarify that very little in terms of Business As Usual will change on this date. The coming together of teams and one management structure will take time and we do not want to rush this process. However there will be one Trust Board and a change of name to Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust in April 2020.



## New Shadow Board announced





The Shadow Board will start meeting from November 2019 and will provide an important role in considering matters affecting the new Foundation Trust. It will make recommendations to the two existing Trust Boards as they retain their statutory responsibilities until the merger is completed. They will concentrate on specific areas relating to the merger:





- Arrangements to ensure that the transaction is viable and safe on Day One;
- Matters related to the new organisation such as communication and branding;
- Any major capital transactions or contracts with third parties of either hospital that extended significantly beyond 1st April 2020.

The Board consists of Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors (detailed below). In addition to this structure, Kandarp Thakkar, Director of Clinical Service Improvement (from Bedford) will lead the clinical integration and service development during and post-merger and Damian Reid, Director of Finance, and Fiona MacDonald, Director of Workforce and Organisational Development (both from Bedford) will be central to developing the strategic capability of the Trust post-merger. There is a commitment to integrated leadership within the new Trust that will include Executive presence across both hospital sites.




Strong clinical leadership is vital to ensure a successful clinically led Integrated Trust. On establishment the new Board will have joint Medical Directors which includes one from each hospital site. The Council of Governors will increase to include five public governors from Bedford Borough (and surrounding counties), six Bedford Hospital staff and an appointed Governor from Bedford Borough Council to ensure balanced representation across the new Foundation Trust geography.


#### **Shadow Board - Executive Directors**

	<b>David Carter – Chief Executive</b>		<b>Cathy Jones – Deputy Chief Executive</b>
	<b>Dr Danielle Freedman – Joint Medical Director</b>		<b>Mr Paul Tisi – Joint Medical Director</b>

 <p><b>Liz Lees – Chief Nurse</b></p>	 <p><b>Catherine Thorne - Director of Quality and Safety Governance</b></p>
 <p><b>Matthew Gibbons – Director of Finance</b></p>	 <p><b>Angela Doak – Director of HR</b></p>

#### Shadow Board - Non-Executive Directors

 <p><b>Simon Linnett – Chair (from L&amp;D)</b></p>	 <p><b>Gordon Johns – Designated Senior Independent Director (from BHT)</b></p>
 <p><b>Mark Prior – (From L&amp;D)</b></p>	 <p><b>Simon Barton – (From L&amp;D)</b></p>
 <p><b>Steve Hone – (From BHT)</b></p>	 <p><b>Dr Annet Gamell – (Newly</b></p>

	appointed)
 <b>Gill Lungley – (Newly appointed)</b>	 <b>Ian Mackie – (Newly appointed)</b>
 <b>Richard Mintern – (Newly appointed)</b>	

### Next steps

A series of Stakeholder/Public Briefing sessions are planned for early December to create opportunities for the Executive Teams to update you on the progress of the merger and more importantly for you to ask any questions you might have. Full details of these sessions will be confirmed in the next Stakeholder Newsletter in November.

We will continue to keep you updated as work progresses and appreciate your ongoing support. If you have any questions you can email either [communications@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk) or [communications@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@ldh.nhs.uk)

Best wishes,

**Stephen Conroy**  
Chief Executive, Bedford Hospital

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