

Foundation Trust progress report

The Foundation Trust (FT) application process has changed recently the SHA will now be taking the lead role in determining the readiness of Trusts for Foundation Trust authorisation rather than the Department of Health. The process the SHA are proposing enables both an improved quality of application and ensures that Trust Boards assess their state of readiness to achieve Foundation Trust licence, working collaboratively with the SHA.

The SHA will need to determine the overall potential readiness of each Trust in all areas, particularly as patient safety and service performance together with governance issues are likely to be as critical a factor as the financial performance.

REVISED PROCESS

The key components of the revised process are:

- There is a single robust framework that can be consistently applied
- There is a single evidence base that can support the nomination process
- There is explicit confirmation from the applicant Trust Board that the proposed time line to authorisation is achievable.
- There is ongoing engagement with the applicant up to the point of authorisation
- Trust readiness for Foundation Trust status is assured

Trusts with Monitor

- The revised process will apply to all Trusts except those that are already with Monitor, e.g. Surrey & Borders Partnership Trust.
- These Trusts will only need to come back into the process if, for any reason, they are rejected or deferred by Monitor.

Trusts currently in the Foundation Trust pipeline

- There are 5 Trusts that started their Foundation Trust application under the old process, all of whom have either been out to, or are currently in, public consultation. These Trusts are all at very different stages in the application process and agreement will be reached with each of those Trusts individually as to how assurance will be provided for each step of the new process and agreed timelines to F.T. authorisation.
- Meetings with each organisation are currently being held.

Trusts not yet in the Foundation Trust pipeline

- A new internal SHA process is currently being proposed to assess the readiness for Trusts to reach Foundation Trust status and the table at Annex 1 summarises the steps and timeline of that process.
- From the start of the process until reaching Monitor is a minimum of 9 months with a further 3 months for the Monitor assessment, giving a minimum of a year for Trusts to be authorised as an Foundation Trust.
- Following an introductory workshop, the process begins with agreement by the Trust CEO and Chair that their organisation is ready to begin the process and an indicative timeline agreed, depending on the state of readiness at that point.

- The timeline will set 2 key milestones, the initial Board to Board with the SHA and the expected date the application will go to the Secretary of State for onward submission to Monitor.
- The initial Board to Board with the SHA will be key to signalling that the Trust is in a state of readiness and can progress to public consultation and will be based on the information received from the Trust during that previous 16 weeks. This will be similar to the previous diagnostic but with a greater emphasis on being developmental.
- Following consultation and receipt of final documentation from the Trust, a second Board to Board is also proposed. This will be at the end of the process and will enable a review of final documentation following the public consultation and SHA sign off of final support. This final meeting could also include Monitor personnel and/or a current Foundation Trust CEO/Non-Executive Director to add further challenge.

Ambulance Trust

- The DH has established a separate process for Ambulance Trusts including a separate diagnostic process to be piloted during 2008. B

SHA TRUSTS

Trusts are listed below in chronological order within the Foundation Trust pipeline, setting out the progress to date and current issues. These dates are indicative as during the process nearly all Trusts have adjusted their timeframe to take account of alterations to the process, or because of other issues.

Medway – Wave 4 Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 April 2008

The Trust was authorised by Monitor to become a NHS Foundation Trust from 1 April 2008.

Surrey and Borders – Wave 6 (Earliest Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 May 2008)

The Trust is providing Monitor with assurance for a number of issues including the Month 11 financial position, Cost Improvement Programmes and the contractual position with the PCT.

Sussex Partnership – Wave 8 (Earliest Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 August 2008)

The SHA submitted the Trust's application to the DH together with the SHA Support Form to be considered at the DH Applications Committee in April 2008. The Trust currently has 3,000 public members in line with its plan. A Chair was appointed to the Trust on 1 April 2008 and the previous Chair has been appointed as a Non Executive Director.

Dartford & Gravesham –

Deferred Wave 7 (Earliest Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 October 2008).

The Trust plan, agreed with the SHA and DH, is to resubmit their application in April 2008 to the SHA and to the DH in May 2008, subject to achieving their MRSA target from December onwards, which is currently on track and the financial requirements. Further drafts of the documentation are currently being reviewed by the SHA and the DH before submission to the DH on 1 May 2008.

Kent & Medway Partnership – Earliest Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 December 2008

Public consultation ends in April 2008. The Trust has revised its previous timetable by two months and is planning on submission to the DH in August 2008. The Trust is currently working on its third draft of the documentation for submission to the SHA at the end of April 2008.

East Kent Hospitals – Earliest Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 December 2008
Public consultation ends in April 2008. The SHA and the Trust are currently working to a timetable that will see a submission to the DH applications committee at the beginning of August 2008

East Sussex Hospitals –

Deferred Wave 8 (Earliest Authorisation by Monitor for Foundation Trust 1 February 2009)

Since the Trust agreed with the SHA to defer their submission to the DH from Wave 7, an action plan has been progressing with the SHA regularly monitoring progress against the plan.

The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust

Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

The SHA reported to the DH that it considers Royal West Sussex NHS Trust, Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust and Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust to be in a position to obtain NHS FT status by mid 2009. However, this is subject to the outcome of the Fit for the Future (FFF) programme.

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

For Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, the SHA has moved authorisation dates for both organisations to mid 2010, to allow time for the Trusts to evidence sustainable improvement in both performance and finance.

Ashford & St Peters Hospitals NHS Trust

No date has been given for Ashford and St Peters to become a Foundation Trust in its own right as a merger/acquisition option was being worked up with Frimley Park Hospital Foundation Trust which has recently been discounted by both of the trusts.

Royal Surrey County NHS Trust

The SHA Board agreed to invite Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust to complete Phase 1 of the SHA's Foundation Trust readiness assessment process. Phase 1 is the period up to the first Board to Board ahead of approving the Trust to go to public consultation.

South Downs Health NHS Trust

Until the future of this organisation in relation to Foundation Trust status has been decided, no date has been agreed.

South East Coast Ambulance Services NHS Trust

The DH is currently developing a diagnostic programme for ambulance trusts that will be piloted later this year and then rolled out across all other ambulance trusts. The Trust will be able to apply for NHS Foundation Trust from April 2009 and will be looking to do so as early as possible.