

## OUTLINE PROPOSAL FROM BUSINESS SOUTH FOR A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH – SUMMARY

Health is a major issue for everyone in the south. Following discussions with major health providers from the public, private and voluntary sectors across its region (i.e. Dorset, Poole, Bournemouth, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth), *Business South* has identified a communication gap that it would like to help to bridge.

*Business South* sees a need to provide a forum where providers from all sectors can meet, exchange ideas and progress projects together with the aim of developing and strengthening the health voice in the region and playing a full and active part in the Government's integration agenda.

To that end, *Business South* proposes a major Health Conference in the spring of 2014 and, with the support of Chief Executives from University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Solent NHS Trust and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, it has invited the Secretary of State for Health to address the conference along with some other key national and regional speakers.

The aim is to give the audience of business leaders a better understanding of the health of the region, the issues people are facing, the excellence that exists here and a better idea of what more can be achieved by working closer together.

Anticipated outcomes from the conference include businesses signing up to a **Get Healthy Together** initiative and the launch of a **Health Action Group** made up of private, public and voluntary sector health providers alongside key businesses.

It is felt that the event would benefit considerably from the involvement of Health & Wellbeing Boards in the Wessex area along with senior Council representatives with their various responsibilities for economic development, public health, adult social care and community leadership.