

Project Fusion update

Project Fusion is the name for the programme taking place to create a new, combined NHS Foundation Trust to deliver community, mental health and learning disability services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Bringing services into a single organisation will result in more consistent care with reduced unwarranted variation, more equitable access to services irrespective of postcode, and a more sustainable workforce and services. The new organisation will be large, yet will operate locally to ensure services can best meet the needs of different communities.

The new Trust will be comprised of all the services currently provided by Solent NHS Trust and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, the community, mental health and learning disability services provided by Isle of Wight NHS Trust and child and adolescent mental health services delivered in parts of Hampshire by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The aim is for the new Trust to be formed by April 2024.

A considerable amount of progress has been made since this item was last considered by HOSP, including:

- Approval by NHS England of the strategic outline case for change
- The appointments of Ron Shields as Chief Executive and Lynne Hunt as Chair for the new organisation, following comprehensive processes overseen by the Integrated Care Board.
- The appointment of designate Non-Executive Directors from the current organisations to take up roles on the Board of the new Trust.
- Ongoing collaborative working across all clinical teams to identify best practice and opportunities to develop and improve services in the new organisation.
- Detailed and ongoing integration planning to prepare for the organisations to come together, ensuring safe, continuous delivery of care with the minimum of disruption.
- Engagement with communities, users, staff and partners to seek views about key elements of the new Trust (including vision, values, strategic objectives, clinical strategy, operating model and naming options).
- The name of the new Trust has been developed and approved by NHS England following extensive engagement. The new organisation will be called: **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**.
- A comprehensive Full Business Case has been approved by Boards of each provider Trust involved at a joint meeting on 13 November, and will now be shared with NHS England for review. The Full Business Case describes in detail the case for change, benefits, and the work required to bring the Trusts together. A summary of this document is enclosed with this paper.

The executive director structure for the new Trust has been established and the aim is to have appointed designate executive directors for the new organisation during the weeks ahead. A clinical strategy setting out the key principles that will underpin the way services operate in the new Trust is also in development, following engagement with a wide range of clinicians and stakeholders, and will be published later in November.

Communications and engagement with patients, carers, staff, communities and partners is ongoing and will continue to April 2024 and beyond. Currently engagement is taking place to gather further

views to help inform how services could be grouped together in the new Trust. Following this, possible options for the organisational structure will be developed for further consultation in the New Year. Key to this will be determining an operating model which leverages the benefits of being a large organisation, whilst delivering services at a local level.

A standalone website and animation have been developed to help communicate the rationale and benefits of this work: www.fusion.hiow.nhs.uk

Questions, comments, or suggestions related to Project Fusion can be directed to project@fusion.hiow.nhs.uk

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