

Mr David Whiting
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Your Ref:
Our Ref:

RE: Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust consultation

Dear David

Leeds City Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation in relation to Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust's aspiration to become a Foundation Trust.

This letter sets out our formal response to the consultation and will be approved subject to any amendments by the council's executive committee at its next meeting on 4th Jan 2012.

Leeds City Council understands that the government has stipulated that all NHS providers must become FTs by April 2014. We welcome the fact that Foundation Trusts will continue to provide and develop healthcare according to core NHS principles - free care, based on need and not ability to pay.

We support the principle that Foundation Trusts will devolve decision making from central government to local organisations and communities and that this will be achieved through strong governance and accountability.

We are encouraged to hear that as self-standing, self-governing organisations, with increased financial freedoms that FTs will be free to spend money wisely and will be encouraged to promote further efficiencies, which can be reinvested for the benefit of the public.

We are assured that the assessment process, led by Monitor will ensure the establishment of financially viable and sustainable FTs and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you in the best interests of our citizens during the transition period. We would welcome your continued cooperation to enable us to act together as strategic partners for the benefit of the citizens of Leeds and supporting the achievement of the Vision for Leeds and associated city priorities. In particular we welcome the role that the Yorkshire Ambulance Service can play in supporting the priorities for Health & Wellbeing and Children.

We are delighted to support your application to become a Foundation Trust and would like to draw your attention to a few matters below in relation to your future plans.

In response to the consultation the Leeds City Council would encourage the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to:

1. Consider establishing arrangements to ensure local authority representation on the board of governors from each of the four areas of Yorkshire.
2. Note the importance of future proofing, particularly in relationship to the potential for undertaking statutory responsibilities and associated governance arrangements and the duty to promote integration of Health and Council services via the Health and Wellbeing boards.
3. Ensure that the necessary governance mechanisms are established to enable the Trust to discharge statutory duties on behalf of the local authority if commissioned to do so.
4. Identify and plan for a failure (in line with Monitor's processes) that will safeguard the investment of the local authority, the reputation of Leeds and services for the citizens of Leeds.
5. Reinvest any surpluses in the communities in which they are realised rather than support less viable contracts in other areas. And in doing so, have due regard to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Leeds.
6. Actively support the emerging commissioning structures in Leeds to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Boards' commissioning intentions (as described by the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy) are informed and discharged appropriately and to support the commissioning intentions of the local community before consideration is given to exploring business opportunities elsewhere.
7. Continue to cooperate in emergency planning strategy and delivery (eg response to pandemics).
8. Endeavour to ensure representation from all the postcodes that cover the Leeds Metropolitan area in terms of the membership of the Trust and to ensure socially inclusive recruitment of members and governors to reflect the diversity of the population of Leeds in all of its areas.
9. Promote innovation, creating job opportunities and promote sustainable travel options

We are encouraged by the opportunity afforded by the change in organisational form and constitution, to strengthen further our partnership arrangements, and we look forward to working closely with Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust to enable us to achieve the Vision for Leeds 2030 and the associated City Priority plan 2011 to 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Riordan.

CC: Catherine Arnshaw, Foundation Trust Engagement Manager

Attached:

[Vision 2030](#)

[City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015](#)