

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Well-Being and Adult Social Care)

Date: 21 December 2011

Subject: Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) – NHS Foundation Trust proposals

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| Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Summary of main issues

- Following the previous Scrutiny Board meeting on 25 November 2011, the purpose of the report is to help the Scrutiny Board give further consideration of Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust's proposals to become a Foundation Trust and seek further views of the Scrutiny Board in this regard.
- As previously, reported, NHS Foundation Trusts are a new type of organisation, they are not-for-profit, public benefit corporations. NHS Foundation Trusts continue to provide services to patients on the basis of need and not ability to pay and their primary purpose is to provide NHS care to NHS patients according to NHS quality standards and principles. However, NHS foundation trusts are different from existing NHS trusts in the following ways:
 - They are independent legal entities - Public benefit corporations.
 - They have unique governance arrangements and are accountable to local people, who can become members and governors. Each NHS foundation trust has a duty to consult and involve a board of governors (comprising patients, staff, members of the public and partner organisations) in the strategic planning of the organisation.
 - They are set free from central government control and are no longer performance managed by health authorities. As self-standing, self-governing organisations, NHS foundation trusts are free to determine their own future.
 - They have new financial freedoms and can raise capital from both the public and private sectors within borrowing limits determined by projected cash flows and therefore based on affordability. They can retain financial surpluses to invest in the delivery of new NHS services.

- NHS Foundation Trusts are overseen and regulated by Monitor
3. The proposals previously presented by Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust are appended to this report for further consideration and comment.
 4. At the previous meeting of the Board (25 November 2011), Members of the Board raised a number of issues/ queries to which definitive responses could not be provided at the time. Nonetheless, a written response has been provided by the Trust, which is attached at Appendix 2.
 5. Following the previous meeting, an interim consultation response was drafted and submitted on behalf of the Scrutiny Board. This is attached at Appendix 3 for information.
 6. Senior representatives from Yorkshire Ambulance Service, including the Chief Executive, will be in attendance at the meeting to outline the proposals and address any specific questions and/or concerns identified by the Scrutiny Board.

Recommendations

7. To consider the Foundation Trust proposals put forward by Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and determine what, if any, further activity to undertake.

Background documents

None