

North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor Mrs Y R T Clarkson, Chair of the Children, Young People and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
LEAD OFFICER: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Neil White, Scrutiny Support Officer

Recommendation: that the decision of the Children, Young People and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support, in principle, the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust's application to become an NHS Foundation Trust be confirmed.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Children, Young People and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered at its special meeting on 21 November 2007 the application by the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

The Committee considered the consultation document on these proposals which is attached at Appendix "A". It also received a presentation from Marie Burnham, Chief Executive and Caroline Griffiths, Director of Strategic Planning and Corporate Governance

The Committee questioned Ms Burnham and Ms Griffiths on a number of points. It noted that a foundation trust would have greater financial and legal freedoms than NHS Trusts and would be based on a "co-operative" model.

Whilst the Foundation Trust was still part of the NHS it would be publicly owned and the Council could be part of this process through having a representative on the Council of Governors.

The Committee agreed that in principle, the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust's application to become an NHS Foundation Trust should be supported by the Council.

3. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

None

4. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

None

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

This report fulfils the Corporate Plan requirement to lobby for accessible primary health care facilities for the people of the borough and to challenge any proposed reduction in the nature and quality of health care services in the borough through links with the West Cumbria Partnership and County Council Health Scrutiny.

6. CONCLUSION

As the consultation period for the comments on the application by the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to become an NHS Foundation Trust finishes on 7 January 2008 Council is invited to consider and support, if appropriate, the recommendation of the Children, Young People and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

List of Appendices

Appendix "A" - North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust – NHS Foundation Trust Consultation Document

List of Background Documents: None.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	No issues
Impact on Sustainability	No issues
Impact on Rural Proofing	Appropriate health care provision in the borough is crucial in this area
Health and Safety Implications	No issues
Project and Risk Management	No issues
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Appropriate health care provision in the borough is crucial in this area
Children and Young Persons Implications	Appropriate health care provision in the borough is crucial in this area
Human Rights Act Implications	No issues

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision: NO.