

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, but 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 HASC, 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.
- 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).

A detailed full business case has now been developed which will be shared for approval by Boards of each provider Trust involved at a joint meeting in November, and subsequently will 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. The executive director structure for the new Trust is also being developed 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.

Communications and engagement with patients, carers, staff, communities and partners is ongoing and will continue to April 2024 and beyond. A standalone website and animation have been developed to help communicate the rationale and benefits of this work.

For further information about Project Fusion please visit www.fusion.hiow.nhs.uk