



Health Scrutiny Panel

19 December 2013

Report title	The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Application Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels Health and Well Being	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Sarah Norman, Community	
Originating organisation	THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST	
Accountable organisation	David Loughton Tel Email	Chief Executive 01902 695950 Claire.Richards12@nhs.net
Report to be/has been considered by	List any meetings at which the report has been or will be considered, e.g.	N/a

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

To comment on progress of the hospital's foundation trust status application.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is brief members of the Health Scrutiny Panel about the progress of the Foundation Trust application since the assessment in September 2012.
- 1.2 The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust's foundation trust status application was deferred by Monitor in September 2012 for a period of twelve months, whilst the Board undertook a number of improvement actions.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Panel considered a previous report on 13 December 2012 detailing the outcome of an assessment by Monitor, the independent regulator for foundation trusts. The Board agreed that in response to comments of Care Quality Commission that more work was needed before the hospital could be considered for NHS Foundation Trust status.
- 2.2 The hospital agreed to provide the health scrutiny panel with a further update report on progress towards reactivation of its application, when available.

3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 The following is a summary of the progress against the improvement action plan
 - **Recruitment of a new chair and non-executive directors:** all appointments were completed by July 2013 with a new chairman in post from March 2013, two non-executives and two associate non executives.
 - **External review of governance:** a review was undertaken between December 2012 and April 2013 with a follow up visit in August 2013. The review showed that there were no fundamental issues with the governance arrangements but the Trust was "slightly behind the curve" in its arrangements. As a result of the review the Trust has reviewed its committee structure throughout the organisation to ensure there is clarity around the flow of information up and down the organisation, and that the Board receives timely and appropriate information in support of its decision making and assurance processes. In addition, three new Divisional Medical Directors have been appointed giving a total of five to strengthen clinical leadership at a senior level.
 - **Review of clinical services:** the Trust was in the first wave of the CQC Chief Inspector of Hospitals inspection programme and had its inspection in September. The report, published on 21 November 2013 highlighted lots of good practice and identified two areas that the Trust must address, both of which were in progress at the time of the inspection -
 - a) nurse and midwifery staffing levels; and
 - b) better management of complaints including feedback.

3.2 In response to the changing health landscape Monitor has made a number of changes to its assessment process and has reviewed the way it works with the CQC and the Trust Development Authority. We have been in regular contact with our Assessment Director at Monitor over the last year and are currently awaiting confirmation of how our assessment will proceed in light of the revised process.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

7.1 Health Scrutiny Panel - Foundation Trust Application - 13 December 2012