

Chairman: Dr Geoff Archenhold  
Chief Executive: Denise McLellan



18<sup>th</sup> February 2010

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Dear Eamonn

Please find attached the completed Organisational Form Summary Sheet for NHS Walsall. It details proposals to support vertical integration with our local acute provider for all community services apart from Learning Disabilities (LD). For LD we propose to explore integration with another community-based provider - Sandwell Mental Health Trust. It is important to point out that this was not our first, or indeed, our second preferred organisational form and more work needs to be done to assess the extent to which the proposal we are submitting today is fully supported across the local economy following the March assurance process. A pack of Information describing the involvement process to date is attached.

Our first preferred organisational form was to continue with PCT direct provision. On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 NHS Walsall Board supported this whilst waiting for the full guidance to be released by the Department of Health. Following the release of the guidance and with reference to the self assessment for World Class Commissioning NHS Walsall acknowledged that it would be unlikely to be in a position to meet the test for continued direct provision. We decided to consider other organisational forms.

On 11th February 2010 a listening event was organised for key stakeholders. It was well attended. The organisational forms proposed by those in attendance were integration with another community provider, in this case Walsall Borough Council (WBC), for health and wellbeing, children and young people, rehabilitation and Learning Disabilities and vertical integration with the local acute provider was supported for Acute Care Closer to Home and Long Term Conditions (LTC). However, when the test for sustainability was applied to this set of proposals mechanisms to enable the integration with the Local Authority in 2010 were not readily available. Technical advice is now being sought at both a local and national level. Should these issues be resolved by the time we go out to formal consultation we intend to extend the range of options for organisational form to include integration with the Local Authority.

We would welcome an early response after the DH Peer Review process in February so that we have as much time as possible to prepare and submit the assurance templates in March.

Yours sincerely

Denise McLellan  
Chief Executive