

Subject:	Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust (BSUH): New Working Arrangements with Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
Date of Meeting:	07 December 2016		
Report of:	Executive Lead, Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Giles Rossington	Tel: 29-5514
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report provides details of the new working arrangement between Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust (BSUH) and Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that was announced on November 10th.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the HOSC seeks assurances that these new arrangements do nothing to jeopardise the local focus of BSUH, its role as a tertiary provider of specialist services and the delivery of the 3Ts programme, and that these arrangements are reflected in the governance arrangements established, including the composition of the BSUH Board after 1st April 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note the information in this report; and
- 1.3 Agree that the HOSC Chair should write to BSUH, Western Sussex Hospitals and NHS Improvement (NHSi) to seek assurances that the new working arrangements will ensure that BSUH continues to be focused on the needs of Brighton & Hove residents, both as a provider of district general hospital and specialist services, and to the delivery of the 3Ts programme and that these arrangements are reflected in the governance arrangements established, including the composition of the BSUH Board after 1st April 2017.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 BSUH provides general hospital services for Brighton & Hove and Mid Sussex residents, and more specialist services on a regional footprint. BSUH manages the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (RSCH) and the Princess Royal Hospital, Hayward's Heath (PRH).

- 3.2 In August 2016 BSUH was placed in Special Measures by NHSi following a critical Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report which rated the trust as inadequate. More recently, BSUH was also placed in Financial Special Measures. The trust currently has an interim Chair and an interim Chief Executive.
- 3.3 Western Sussex Hospitals manages St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and Worthing Hospital. The trust is rated as outstanding by the CQC and is forecasted to declare a surplus this year.
- 3.4 Under proposals published on November 10th, the Chair and Chief Executive of Western Hospitals will also assume these responsibilities at BSUH from 01 April 2017.
- 3.5 The current BSUH Board remains in control of the trust until April 2017. An Improvement Oversight Group, bringing together the leaders of both trusts with NHSi, will oversee the development of the long term relationship between the trusts. It is stressed that there is no plan to merge the two organisations, but that the intention is to move to a long-term partnership.
- 3.6 The news that a high performing local NHS organisation is to provide support to BSUH is obviously welcome. However, further details of the new working arrangements had not been made public at the time of writing this report. We do not yet know, for instance, what if any role the Western Hospitals Executive team will have at BSUH, or whether BSUH Non-Executive Directors will be asked to stay on with the remit to ensure that future executive decisions are in the interests of BSUH and of local residents.
- 3.7 It is clearly important for the city that our local hospital trust remains focused on the needs of the residents of Brighton & Hove. There is an obvious risk of this being lessened by the new working arrangements, although this risk could be effectively mitigated by appropriate governance measures. It is therefore recommended that HOSC members seek assurances that BSUH will maintain its current focus on the needs of local residents, and that this will be embodied in future governance arrangements – for example, by giving BSUH Non-Executive Directors a defined role to ensure that organisational decisions reflect the best interests of local people.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Members could choose not to seek the assurances suggested above, or to seek additional assurances as they see fit.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None to this report

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The announcement of a new working relationship between BSUH and Western Hospitals is clearly good news in that it provides additional expert support for an organisation with well-documented governance and financial problems.
- 6.2 However, ceding control of any local organisation to a non-local organisation raises the risk that decisions will in future not reflect the best interests of local people, and it is therefore recommended that the committee seeks assurance that the local focus of BSUH will be maintained.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 None to this report for information

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 22/11/16

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 None to this report for information

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None to this report for information

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None to this report for information

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

None

