

PUBLIC SERVICE TRUST FOR HEREFORDSHIRE**Report By: Project Director, Herefordshire Public Service Trust****Wards Affected**

County-wide.

Purpose

1. To consider an update on the development of a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire.

Financial Implications

2. As reported to Cabinet on 8th February 2007 there are financial implications that are being assessed as part of the overall project. Both parties need to undertake due diligence as part of the process of understanding the financial stability of the respective partner. There is also a need to understand the different funding streams that are available to the respective partners and the overall funding envelope within which the proposal will have to be contained. This forms part of the work being undertaken by the Corporate Resources, Finance and ICT Working Group
3. There are also a number of other key areas that have been identified through the detailed work of Working Groups where specialist advice may be needed in order to advise, clarify or inform the ongoing work. There will be costs associated with the consultation process.

Background

4. Members will recall from previous reports that the impetus for this proposal came in May last year after the Government looked at reorganising Primary Care Trusts. Although the Government announced that there would continue to be a separate Primary Care Trust for Herefordshire, it recognised that the proposal to establish a Public Service Trust could be beneficial. Services could be developed and safeguarded within the county if the workings of the Primary Care Trust and Council were brought together.
5. The idea being to revolutionise local public services by fulfilling the vision for a single leading-edge organisation comprising of the Council and Primary Care Trust with three key aims:

- To deliver a wider range of excellent and integrated public services designed around the needs and expectations of individual patients and customers.
 - To provide better value for money for local taxpayers, with savings on management costs as the Public Service Trust moves to a single management structure.
 - To safeguard and enhance local health and public services in Herefordshire.
6. As a result of this it was necessary to initiate the work needed to develop the concept.
7. A Project Director and Project Officer were therefore appointed by the Council and Primary Care Trust in January 2007 with the remit to take forward the work initiated as a consequence of the scoping exercise that was undertaken in August / September 2006. A project Steering Group was established from the beginning of February and a Project Initiation Document (Appendix 1) was agreed on 6th February.
8. The Steering Group (Appendix 2) is jointly Chaired by the Leader of the Council and Primary Care Trust Chair and its membership includes both Chief Executives, Cabinet Member, Non Executive Director, Chair of the PCT's Professional Executive Committee and PST Project Director.
9. Eight working Groups were established by the Steering Group at the beginning of February with the terms of reference that require them to address a wide range of responsibilities that are designed to move the Council and Primary Care Trust from the scoping report to a public consultation regarding the creation of a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire. In doing so the Working Groups are required to address the six success criteria that were highlighted in the scoping report and approved by the Cabinet and Primary Care Trust. Working Groups include key people from within the Council and Primary Care Trust along with other key stakeholders including the Third Sector, Staff Representatives and the Patient & Public Involvement Forum.
10. The Working Groups are:
- Change Management & Human Resources.
 - Clinical & Corporate Governance.
 - Communication, Consultation, Involvement & Clinical Engagement.
 - Service Users.
 - Corporate Resources, Finance & ICT.
 - Planning, Commissioning & Performance Management.
 - Public Health & Health Improvement.
 - Environment Services.
11. The Working Groups have been meeting regularly, are well attended and are making good progress. All have produced interim reports to the Steering

Group and are on track to submit their final reports by the beginning of April. The final reports will inform the consultation document.

12. The Steering Group have agreed a detailed project plan against which progress can be monitored. The plan will be kept under constant review and will be subject to revision as necessary. Consultation will take place in the late spring/early summer this year. This will involve discussions with key stakeholders including employees, patients, customers, partner organisations and the Third Sector. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, the timetable could see a 'shadow' Public Service Trust in October, with a new organisation comprising of the Council and PCT's commissioning functions beginning in April 2008.
13. It is important to note that the Primary Care Trust is also undertaking a review of its provider services. This work aims to identify the preferred organisational model for the delivery of direct patient care services and is complementary to the PST work to remodel the Council and Primary Care Trust's commissioning functions. The PST Steering Group have commissioned regular updates from the Primary Care Trust's Provider Services Project Steering Board.
14. The Primary Care Trust aims to produce a short list of options for its provider services that can be included in the PST consultation to canvass wider views and to propose a broad "direction of travel" for its provider services.
15. It is already apparent that both the Council and Primary Care Trust are benefiting from the closer working relationships that are developing as a result of this work. There are many areas that would benefit from an integrated approach to public services through a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire.

Risk Management

16. The PST Project Steering Group has commissioned the Clinical and Corporate Governance Working Group to coordinate the production of a risk register. The Risk Register identifies the "top" risks for both the Council and Primary Care Trust as reported through existing mechanisms and a PST Risk Register that focuses on risks relating to the respective partners arising from the PST development. This Risk Register will be reviewed at each meeting of the Steering Group.

Consultation

17. Although it is anticipated that the public consultation will commence in the spring / summer the date has yet to be finalised as it is subject to discussions with key stakeholders.
18. The Steering Group have agreed a draft Communications and Consultation Strategy that establishes a clear framework for the consultation. This will be circulated separately.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the Committee notes progress and the next steps in relation to the establishment of a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire; and
- (b) the Project Director provides the Committee with regular updates at its quarterly scheduled meetings.

Background Papers

- Scoping Report – Public Service Trust – Herefordshire produced by Alan Curless & Associates Ltd
- Summary of the deliberations of Cabinet on 26th October 2006.