

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2003 AT 10.00 AM

Agenda Item

4b

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL APPLICATION TO BE AN NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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1. Summary

Addenbrooke's NHS Trust is one of twenty-five hospitals considering an application to be an NHS Foundation Trust. The trust has already submitted a preliminary application which has been approved by the Secretary of State for Health. We are currently preparing a final application to be submitted to the Secretary of State on 12 December.

Public consultation is a requirement of this process. We are currently engaged in a 12 week consultation, ending on 24 November. As well as media coverage we are also holding a series of public meetings across our membership area.

Addenbrookes Hospital provides services to the people of Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas. These services include local services, such as general medicine and general surgery, and specialist services such as cancer, neurosciences and infectious diseases amongst others, as outlined on pages 13-15 of the attached consultation document.

2. NHS Foundation Trusts

A Bill is currently under discussion in the House of Lords proposing that NHS Foundation Trusts are established as Public Benefit Corporations. Public Benefit Corporations are new types of organisation accountable to local members, patients and staff through an elected Board of Governors. These governors are elected from a membership drawn from local people, past and current patients/carers and staff. NHS Foundation Trusts will be accountable through their Board of Governors to an Independent Regulator appointed by parliament.

Addenbrooke's NHS Trust is consulting on our proposals to become an NHS Foundation Trust. In our consultation document we review two key areas: the

proposed governance structures and the service strategy for the new organisation. (Further details can be found at page 5 of the attached consultation document)

3. Issues for consideration relating to Hertfordshire residents

The Membership Area: The membership area has been defined using hospital utilization rates shown at ward level. Given this data we are proposing that a number of wards are included in the membership area¹. All individuals living in these wards are eligible for membership. In addition to this we are proposing that any individual who has been or is a patient at Addenbrooke's or who works at Addenbrooke's also be eligible for membership. (Further detail can be found at pages 21 and 22 of the consultation document)

The Board of Governors: We are proposing that local authorities are represented on the Board of Governors to ensure we maintain and develop good relationships with local partners, for examples those responsible for social services provision and local planning decisions. (Further detail can be found at pages 8 and 9 of the consultation document)

Local and specialist services: Addenbrooke's is committed to providing high quality services for local residents. We believe that together with our specialist services we can offer a service provided by expert clinical professionals meeting a broad spectrum of needs. (Further details can be found at pages 13 and 13 of the document)

¹**East Hertfordshire District Council:** Buntingford, Braughing, Mundens and Cottered; **North Hertfordshire District Council:** Ermine, Royston Palace, Royston Meridian, Royston Heath.