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New Committees in Common structure strengthens partnership approach

The Trust Boards from the seven Working Together partners have this month received a proposal to move the Vanguard Partnership to the next stage of governance.

The proposal is to adopt a Committees in Common model. The Committees in Common structure allows NHS Foundation Trusts and NHS Trusts to establish their own committees, which all meet at the same time and with the same remit and common agenda. Wherever possible, membership should be identical. Each committee can only make a decision in relation to its own Organisation but the decisions can be co-ordinated to provide joint leadership without legal entity. NHS Foundation Trusts and NHS Trusts are both able to delegate to committees in common.

Trust Chairs and CEOs have already discussed the proposed change and believe it a potential way to support a faster paced decision process for the Working Together Partnership, without infringing the ultimate responsibility of Trust Boards.

Tony Pedder is Chair of the Acute Federation meeting, which is the current meeting of the Trust Chairs and Chief Executives that will be succeeded by the Committees in Common meeting, if agreed by all Trust Boards. He said: "In July 2016 the Board of Directors, as part of



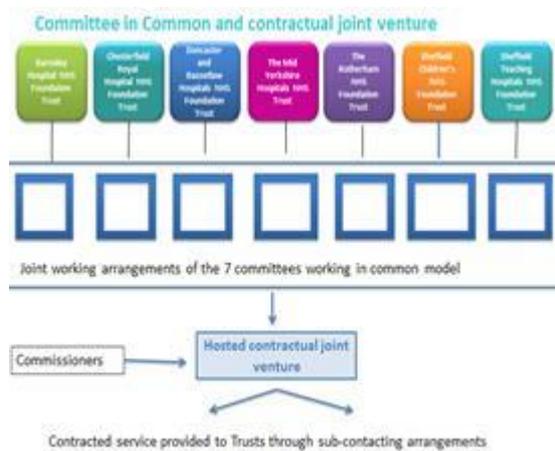
Joint Director of Procurement appointed between Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Since the launch of the Working Together Partnership, the procurement work-stream has been at the forefront of sharing best practice and collaborating. From this month two Trusts will be taking their collaboration a step further, after Andrea Smith was appointed to be the Procurement Lead across both Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (DBH) and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH).

the Working Together Partnership, created the Acute Federation. This was in order to build a confederated approach that could facilitate and drive wider scale change and benefits. At the time it was anticipated that further changes to the governance structure would probably be advantageous as the Sustainability and Transformation Plans developed and became clearer.

“Having studied this further, we consider that the Committees in Common approach is the right next step for advancing the partnership’s governance, whilst recognising that Trust Boards remain the responsible entities”

The proposals will be discussed at the seven Trust boards throughout December, and if agreed the new structure would be implemented from April 2017.



Andrea will take up post as the Director of Procurement across both organisations, continuing her work at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals while filling the vacant position currently at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Andrea has led the Procurement team at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals since 2014.

Andrea’s appointment will further strengthen collaboration, and is testament to the work of the Working Together partnership, which has helped build strong working relationships across the seven partner Trusts at all levels of the organisations.

Work begins to ensure sustainable hospital services are developed for the future

It is widely recognised that the NHS is facing a challenging future given rising demand for care, an older and more dependent population, constrained finances and workforce shortages in some specialist areas.

In response to this, the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan has set out a clear ambition to ensure we continue to have high quality, safe and sustainable hospital services for our local population in the years ahead.

Key to this will be ensuring services are provided in the most appropriate place at the right time by the appropriate healthcare professionals.

The Working Together Hospital Chief Executives and Chairs have therefore agreed that in order to move this area of work forward the first step needs to be an independent review of the current situation.

The main purpose of undertaking this review is to identify those services which are unsustainable and

require different delivery models to achieve sustainability. The scope of this review will focus on clinical services. However the work already underway between NHS Trusts on some non-clinical support functions and pathology will be considered alongside this work.

Whilst a similar review by the Trust Medical Directors took place a year ago, it is felt that the successful collaboration of our region's NHS Trusts through the Working Together Programme, the pace required to meet emerging sustainability concerns, and the emergence of the STP mean that the timing is right for an updated independent review.

The review aims to identify any services that are unsustainable, short, medium and long-term and then put forward a future service delivery model or models which will deliver sustainable hospital services.

The appointed independent reviewer will work closely with Clinicians and Medical Directors from all the Trusts to ensure the recommendations are well informed.

STP publication reveals Working Together priorities seen as key

Ambitions for the future of health and care in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw have been published in the region's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

The STP is now being shared widely, with views sought from staff, patients and the public on the high level thinking about the future of health and care services in the region. All feedback will be taken into account before any further work takes place.

[The STP can be viewed here](#)

Value in support services and Innovative procurement are put forward to demonstrate best practice

The Working Together Partnership has this month put forward two examples of best practice as bids for the national HSJ Value in Healthcare Awards.

In the Innovative procurement category the partnership has showcased our strong partnership approach, which has helped make over £1m savings for the Trusts, alongside the Decision Flow Diagram tool that helps make clinical decisions about the best procurement approach.

In the Value in Support Services category the partnership has showcased how we have brought the Trusts together to collaborate and share best practice in areas such as E-Rostering and legal services.

We will find out if we have been successfully shortlisted and our work will therefore be showcased any further nationally in Mid-January.

The cost of Brexit on NHS Procurement – a Working Together expert view

The Working Together Partnership Procurement Lead has this month featured on BBC Radio 4 and BBC online after he wrote a blog on the impact of Brexit and the falling pound on NHS procurement.

Jonathan Edwards highlighted how many of the NHS products are procured from elsewhere in the world, and how the impact could be mitigated.

[The full blog can be seen here.](#)

[Or listen to Jonathan's opinion on BBC Radio 4 via this link.](#)

Have your say on the Commissioners Working Together led public consultation into Children's Surgery and Anaesthesia and Hyper Acute Stroke Services [here](#)

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