

September 30th 2013

CCG's Give Views on Draft Proposals

Stafford and Surrounds and Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have both written to the Trust Special Administrators (TSA) airing their views on the draft proposals on Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust.

The CCG have chosen not to respond directly to the 26 questions in the TSA consultation but have instead each written to the Trust Special Administrator Alan Bloom. A copy of each letter is now on the CCGs' websites for information.

Each letter, which is very similar, gives comments on three areas:

- Comments on the process and draft report
- Comments on the proposals
- Comments on clinical and financial sustainability

The letters do back plans to dissolve the Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust.

Commenting on the process the CCGs both acknowledge that the TSA has had an unenviable task and has worked to a defined set of regulations governed by law. The CCGs believe that the TSA has not produced a solution that delivers clinical and financial sustainability for the Mid Staffordshire Health economy but acknowledges that it did not have the remit to look more widely across the health economy. The CCGs also believe that using a different system to the one the TSA have used to calculate price i.e. by commissioning, providing and costing differently to integrate services might deliver a more financially sustainable solution.

In commenting on the proposals and draft report the CCGs agree that many of the ideas put forward are in line with their commissioning intentions for the future but they would like to test these against different costing models which would promote service integration between providers.

The letters both go onto comment about clinical and financial sustainability and state that: "The CCG also understands that the TSA views financial sustainability from an affordability perspective and that their proposals, still have a deficit at the end of year three. This deficit position is unacceptable to the CCG if the view is that the CCG is responsible for that debt at the end of the transitional period."

Chief Accountable Officer for both CCGs, Andrew Donald said: "It's our view that the TSA has completed the programme of work as set out in statute in recommending the dissolution of the Trust. However, the CCGs believe that more work needs to be done to look at commissioning a more integrated approach to healthcare between the community and acute sector. Neither CCG can sign up to the TSA report because it doesn't propose a financially sustainable solution and we will not accept a solution that leaves either CCG with a multi million pound debt to manage."

Chair of Stafford and Surrounds Dr Anne-Marie Houlder added: "We believe that for the benefit of our patients locally we can commission services in a different way. With a different approach to

pricing, extending the timescale to achieve financial sustainability to five years and with support to build community based services we can potentially reduce the financial gap.”

Chair of Cannock Chase CCG Dr Johnny McMahon added: “Our CCGs are absolutely clear that in Stafford and Cannock we are the bodies responsible for commissioning and therefore we will be the organisations who will be commissioning services differently from 2014. It’s vital than in doing so we work fully with the public to listen to what services they want and to take their views into account.”

The letter(s) also finish by stating that:

1. The CCG believes the TSA has delivered its functions under the act and the Mid Staffordshire Hospitals Foundation Trust should be dissolved at a point when it is clear who will provide the future services.
2. The CCG believes a potentially larger piece of work with a wider remit is undertaken to ensure clinical and financial sustainability can be delivered.
3. The CCG notes the clinical model for future reference but further work through local commissioners now needs to take place.
4. The CCG proposes a five year transitional timescale
5. The CCG wishes to see specific transitional costs allocated to commissioners for transition
6. The CCG notes the three models and the deficit outlined in each. The CCG confirms that it will not be responsible for any outstanding debts at the end of the transitional period.

The CCG’s response letter(s) to the draft recommendations are now on each website <http://www.staffordsurroundsccg.nhs.uk/> or <http://www.cannockchaseccg.nhs.uk/>

ENDS

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