

Mrs S Brierley
Deputy Director Strategic
Development
Lister Hospital (L69)
Coreys Mill Lane
Stevenage
Hertfordshire SG1 4AB

Your contact: Anne Freimanis
Ext:
Fax:
Our ref: LAB/Dem Svs
Date: 16 May 2008

Dear Mrs. Brierley

FOUNDATION TRUST STATUS – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

First of all, thank you very much for taking the time to prepare the presentation and to attend the Council's Health Engagement Panel on 12 May 2008. Members welcomed the opportunity of debating the NHS's proposals to become a Foundation Trust. As such the following is the Council's response to the consultation process.

In response to your specific questions, Members agreed with your vision and strategic aims for the future of the trust as a Foundation Trust. On the question of what action should the Trust take to build an organisation which was more patient focussed, the Panel felt that this could be achieved by including members of the public and widening the range of services provided. In terms of communicating this information, the Council feels that all methods of communication should be used ie email, post and website to ensure that the dissemination of information is totally inclusive and does not disenfranchise any particular group of people.

The Panel recognises that balanced representation of membership would be essential in providing effective services which would meet the needs of the community. However, this could be aided further by working closely with the Council who in turn, work closely with the community and with a range of organisations and stakeholders. The Council supports the proposal to allow a minimum age of 14 to become a member.

The Council feels that the NHS Trust's proposals for the Council of Governors and representative arrangements to be reasonable and supports the proposal of asking a Member of East Herts Council to sit as a Governor.

The Council agrees and welcomes the proposed arrangements to support the transition to become a NHS Foundation Trust.

Yours sincerely

Anne Freimanis
Chief Executive
anne.freimanis@eastherts.gov.uk