

Report for: Health and Wellbeing Board – 8 December 2016

Title: NMUH & RFL joint partnership development

Report

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1. Describe the issue under consideration

North Middlesex University Hospital is considering joining the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust “Group”.

Royal Free London became one of four foundation trusts in England to be ‘accredited’ by NHS Improvement to lead groups or chains of NHS providers. The Trust is part of the Acute Care Collaboration (ACC) vanguards, part of the new care models programme coordinated by NHS England.

RFL has successfully proposed developing as a Group in order to develop the capability and infrastructure to reduce unwarranted variation in all its various forms – which are intended to result in improved clinical outcomes, patient safety and patient satisfaction. The Group also intends to consolidate a range of clinical support services and non-clinical activity, which (in addition to the clinical standardisation) should deliver financial benefits.

The proposal for NMUH to join the RFL Group is aligned with national, local and organisational strategies and has the potential to deliver benefits to patients, staff and the wider health system.

North Middlesex University Hospital is currently exploring how joining the group will help secure the future sustainability of services – both financially and clinically. It has recently experienced significant operational challenges, in terms of both quality and delivery of access standards that may have been mitigated with access to a wider workforce resource that may only be achievable through greater scale.

A Partnership Board has been established since June 2016 to maintain an overview of the progress towards the decision and if the decision is to proceed to the integration of NMUH into the new group structure. This Partnership Board incorporates senior leaders from the Trusts as well as representatives from Haringey CCG, Enfield CCG, NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Both trusts boards will make ultimate decisions regarding progress of the Partnership Programme, with the Partnership Board acting as the collective forum to oversee the work on behalf of both organisations.

Regulatory approval from NHSI, & CQC as well as approval from other central stakeholders such as HMT, DH and NHSE will be required. Support from system stakeholders, such as CCGs, patient groups and politicians will also be important.

The partnership programme has recently met with both Healthwatch organisations covering Enfield and Haringey. It is developing a suite of communication materials and engagement events that will be utilised to talk and listen to the views and thoughts expressed by key local stakeholders on both the perceived strategic benefits as well as the operational architecture of the new “Group” structure.

2 Recommendations

The Board is asked to note the content of the report.