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Dear colleague,

On behalf of the PAT Transaction Programme Board, we would like to update you on the progress being made on the future arrangements for the hospitals and services currently under the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (PAT). This staff briefing is fully supported by Raj Jain, Chief Executive of the NCA, and Sir Mike Deegan, Chief Executive of MFT, who are both keen for all staff to be kept informed.

The plan is still to split and reorganise PAT so that Salford Royal (SRFT) formally acquires the Oldham, Bury and Rochdale sites as part of the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA), and for Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) to formally acquire North Manchester General Hospital as part of the Manchester Single Hospital Service.

A huge amount of due diligence and detailed work has been carried out to date, particularly in relation to the service alignment of the large number of clinical and non-clinical services currently provided across PAT. This has involved input and views from senior clinicians and managers through approximately 120 workshops. However, the complexity of the acquisition processes, and the significant amount of capital investment being sought from Government, mean that it is not possible to complete the formal acquisitions by 1 April 2020 as planned.

In order to provide certainty for the committed and valued staff who work across PAT hospitals and the population they serve, SRFT and MFT have agreed a plan with NHS England/Improvement (NHSE/I) to put in place management contract arrangements from 1 April 2020 to oversee the running of the respective hospitals and services that the two Trusts are planning to acquire.

Under these arrangements, Fairfield General Hospital, The Royal Oldham Hospital and Rochdale Infirmary will continue to be managed by SRFT and its Care Organisation director leadership teams as part of the NCA Group. From 1 April, NMGH will be managed by MFT and the NMGH leadership team will form part of the MFT Group.

There is a lot to be done to agree the detail of the management contracts, but a great deal of planning has already been undertaken. All partner organisations are fully committed to working together further to achieve these new arrangements by 1 April 2020.

NHSE/I continue to oversee these processes. Our collective priority is to support and put in place arrangements to ensure that the changes are implemented safely and effectively, bringing more certainty to PAT staff, and strengthening the long-term sustainability of services.

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Over future weeks we will continue to communicate with staff and staff-side organisations across the PAT hospitals to ensure the highest levels of engagement during this important period of change, and to sustain the planning work that has taken place over recent months.

PAT as a statutory NHS organisation (employer and service provider) will continue to exist at 1 April 2020. The management contracts do not constitute a formal legal transaction so there will not be a requirement for PAT staff to transfer employment (TUPE) to SRFT and MFT by April 2020.

The formal transactions to bring the PAT hospitals permanently into the respective NHS Foundation Trusts will be completed during 2020/21 and by April 2021 at the latest. The two formal legal transactions will be able to progress at different speeds based on their particular circumstances, with SRFT targeting acquisition of Bury, Oldham and Rochdale by October 2020.

These management arrangements are a positive step forward and are part of securing a stable, longer term solution for those hospitals and services across the north of Greater Manchester for patients, service users, staff and the wider community.

We would like to thank you for your continued hard work and relentless pursuit of high quality, safety and reliability. It is duly recognised by all Board partners of the significant improvements that have been made across PAT.

Your patience, understanding and interest during this complex transaction process is greatly appreciated. And thank you to those who have so far been involved in the development of future plans for these sites and services. More staff will be involved as the service alignment work progresses.

Next year will be a positive and exciting step forward for everyone who is connected to PAT and its services.

If you have any questions, please consult the latest FAQs that are available or speak to your line manager or management team. Every effort will be made to answer your questions and queries as best we can.



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Jon Rouse
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