

Briefing note: Provision of Facilities Management services at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Update: 19 January 2018

Following Carillion PLC, and subsidiaries, entering into liquidation on Monday 15 January this briefing provides an update on the implications for the provision of services at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and the action being taken to mitigate any risks.

Service continuity

Importantly there has been no impact on the delivery of services, or clinical care in the hospital. We are continuing to operate our services as business as usual, with all of our facilities remaining open and patient appointments unaffected. Therefore, it has not been necessary to activate our formal business continuity plan. We have held daily meetings this week at both operational and strategic level to monitor and manage any impacts to our services, should they arise, and we continue to work closely with ProjectCo (who under the PFI Project Agreement are responsible for the on-going delivery of Facilities Management services) to ensure any risk to services is identified early and mitigated effectively. We are actively monitoring events and our business continuity plan provides an escalation route if anything arises which may threaten the safe running of the hospital.

We are working closely with ProjectCo to ensure a smooth transition of FM services to a new supplier in the coming weeks. We will provide a full update about this as soon as we are able.

Supply chain

You may have seen commentary in the media about risks to the ongoing payment of suppliers. Resolving any concerns from suppliers has been a priority action for us, especially as many of our small to medium suppliers are members of our local business community. Our Facilities Management (FM) staff and ProjectCo remain in discussion with suppliers, and any concerns are escalated to the Official Receiver's Special Manager - who is responsible for ensuring that Carillion's services are continued until a replacement provider is in place.

Staff members

Since the announcement on Monday about Carillion's future, each and every member of support staff has reported for work, ensuring that there has been no disruption for our patients. Our local FM management team has been hugely supportive and impressive in how they have responded to the situation. The professionalism and dedication at all levels, during what is an unsettling time for them personally has been exemplary and demonstrates why they are an integral part of our team in Portsmouth. We have written to every member of FM staff to thank them for the continuing important work that they do on behalf of our patients.

Understandably there have been some anxieties among staff about the future arrangements and Project Co continue to be in communication with all affected FM colleagues to ensure they are kept up to date with developments. As you might expect, local trade union representatives have been in communication with their members and we are grateful for the advice and support they have, and will continue to provide to staff.

We will continue to keep you informed, however should you have any questions in the meantime please do get in touch.