

24 April 2012

Solent NHS Trust Headquarters

Adelaide Health Centre  
William Macleod Way  
Millbrook  
Southampton  
SO16 4XE

Councillor P. Eddis  
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
Portsmouth City Council  
Guildhall Square  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO1 2AZ

Tel: 023 8060 8900  
www.solent.nhs.uk

Dear Councillor Eddis,

**Re: Response to Solent NHS Trust's formal consultation on their application to become an NHS Foundation Trust**

Solent NHS Trust was established on 1 April 2011 in response to the national Transforming Community Services agenda. In line with the government's plans for the future of NHS Trusts, we are currently applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust by April 2014. Our proposal is to be authorised by April 2013.

As part of our application we are undertaking a 12 week formal consultation. The consultation provides us with the opportunity to understand what the people who use our services, patients, members of the public, partners and other stakeholders think about our proposals. The consultation does not ask the question about whether or not the Trust should become a Foundation Trust, but rather it asks what people think of our proposed governance arrangements and the Trust's future plans.

The consultation covers three broad areas including:

- our vision and future plans
- our membership
- our Council of Governors.

Please find attached a copy of our consultation document. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the consultation and more specifically the questions highlighted below:

- What do you think of the objectives for the Trust?
- Do you agree that people who are aged 14 should be able to become a member?
- What do you think of our plans to have a single constituency which includes people who use our services and their carers?
- What do you think of our proposed public and staff constituencies? Do you think that they are representative of the communities we serve?
- What do you think of our plans for the Council of Governors?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Responses from the consultation will be used to refine our Foundation Trust application and a summary report, outlining the responses received and the changes we have made to our plans as a result of the comments received, will be produced in the summer.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Austin', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Austin  
Director of Strategy