

**Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Briefing paper**

<b>Title:</b> Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust update		
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<b>Purpose of the paper :</b> To update the committee on the strengthening of the partnership between Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust and Isle of Wight NHS Trust.		
<b>Brief summary:</b> NHS partners in Hampshire & Isle of Wight have been working together for a number of years to resolve the challenges of delivering sustainable health services for the Isle of Wight population. On 31 January 2023, Isle of Wight NHS Trust (IWT) and Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust (PHU) announced plans to further strengthen their partnership to enable the provision of high quality, safe, and sustainable services to the populations they serve. The first steps of this plan are to change the leadership and governance across IWT and PHU. Ongoing further support will be needed to transform services over the coming months and years to achieve the shared system goal of sustainable, highquality care for all.		
<b>Background:</b> Due to its island location, the Isle of Wight NHS Trust needs to provide a wide range of services to a comparatively small population. This makes services expensive to run and difficult to recruit to. As a result, they are neither financially, operationally nor clinically sustainable. Many of the clinical services it provides are so fragile they rely on a single member of staff.  Together, partners across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight integrated care system (ICS) have been exploring how services on the Isle of Wight could be better organised to ensure that the improvement of recent years continues, and that healthcare is made sustainable for the long-term.  This includes a review of community and mental health services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight to understand how to better meet the demands of the future (Project Fusion), looking at sustainable acute services and strengthening the partnership with South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.  In 2020 PHU and IWT formed an acute services partnership to tackle the challenges faced by acute services on the Isle of Wight and improve care for people who live in Portsmouth, Southeast Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.  The partnership is underpinned by three key principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum possible proportion of healthcare should be delivered on the Island.</li> <li>• Where services are not of sufficient clinical scale to be delivered sustainably by Isle of Wight NHS Trust they should be delivered in partnership with Portsmouth.</li> <li>• Patients will continue to receive specialist care on the mainland where necessary.</li> </ul>		

Teams have been working together to identify the critical risks in Island services and agree the best way forward. You can read the Acute Services Strategy [here](#).

Since its creation, the Partnership has delivered improvements in services on the Island including Stroke, Cardiology, and Urology.

**Update:**

In February PHU and IWT announced plans to strengthen the Acute Services Partnership through the formation of a single Chief Executive, Executive Team and single clinical leadership across our two organisations.

Strong, experienced operational leadership teams will be retained in both Portsmouth and on the Isle of Wight. Our clinical leadership will lead the design and delivery of services across our two main hospital sites, for the benefit of all the populations we serve.

By working in partnership, both organisations will be able to create job roles which are more attractive, with more chance to take part in training and research, more opportunities for progression, and a wider range of clinical experience available across the two hospitals.

We know that in some areas both Trusts face similar challenges in recruitment, where there are recognised shortages of staff nationally. However, closer partnership working means we will work together to recruit colleagues into single services, rather than compete with each other. It means neither organisation is facing those challenges alone.

**Timeline:**

- **31 January** – Plans for a strengthening of the partnership with a single Executive Team and Clinical Leadership.
- **April 2023** – Single Chief Executive announced
- **June 2023** – Single Executive Team and Clinical Leadership confirmed
- **July 2023** – Clinical, corporate and support services will be reviewed in line with full public, patient and staff engagement where necessary.

**Engagement to date:**

**System partners** – All our system partners have been involved in partnership and its development. They have been regularly briefed and engaged with our projects and ambition to provide the high quality and sustainable services across our populations.

**MPs** – MPs from across IoW, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire have received a full briefing and been offered a more detailed briefing where needed. MPs will continue to receive regular updates.

**Healthwatch** – IoW and Portsmouth Healthwatch have received full briefings.

**Staff** – A number of virtual staff briefings have been held with staff to answer questions and concerns. In total over 900 staff across both organisations attended. Regular updates are being through internal channels.

**Public/Patients** – the announcement has been shared with the local media and on our websites to allow the public and patients to be aware of the management changes. If any changes to services are planned, patients and the public will be fully involved and engaged with.

**Next Steps:**

- Appointment of the single Chief Executive, leadership team and clinical leaders throughout March – June 2023.
- We will return to the committee in June following the appointments and give further information on the next steps and plans.