Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

To: Partners and stakeholders across Leeds, West Yorkshire and neighbouring health systems
Via email

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Partner Update: Integration of Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to deliver whole-person community-based care from pre-conception to older age

Dear Colleagues & Partners,

I'm writing to update you following the publication of the Leeds Provider Partnership Review in November on the steps we are taking at Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (LCH) and Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LYPFT).

The Boards of both Trusts have formally approved the development of a strategic outline case (SOC) which will set out why we believe becoming one integrated NHS provider of both community and mental health, is the right thing to do. It will outline options for how we can bring the two organisations closer together for the benefit of the people we serve.

Colleagues within the Leeds Health and Care system, as well as regional and national NHS colleagues have all backed this move, which is important if we are to deliver neighbourhood health fit for the future - as set out in the national 10-year health plan.

Our plans seek to improve health outcomes for the people we care for, improve the working lives of colleagues, and make best use of the 'Leeds pound' through better productivity and efficiency. We will continue to work with all our stakeholders as we move forward.

Background to how we got here

Earlier this year statutory health and care organisations across Leeds asked a consultancy called thevaluecircle to help us evaluate our ways of working and challenge us on how we, as a partnership, can deliver better and measurable outcomes for all our communities.

The review was commissioned in response to shifts in national policy – such as neighbourhood health, the evolving role of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and the 10 Year Health Plan for England. The review recommended Leeds health and care organisations should establish a formal provider partnership to strengthen existing collaboration arrangements and ways of working.

The review also recognised the strength of the relationship between LCH and LYPFT, and the potential for this to go further, especially to deliver integrated neighbourhood health care.

The two Trust Boards came together to explore this and made the decision to develop a case to bring the two organisations together and create one new provider, which aims to:

1. To improve health outcomes for the communities we serve across the city of Leeds,
2. To improve the working lives of staff by making it easier for them to deliver consistent high-quality care to those communities, and
3. To improve our productivity and efficiency, make better use of the 'Leeds Pound' and deliver better value for taxpayers.

This offers us a real opportunity to deliver whole-person, community-based care from pre-conception to older age. It's in line with the national 10-year health plan, particularly its Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme. Leeds has recently been selected to be in the first wave of the neighbourhood health rollout, and by having a more integrated provider of all community-based NHS services, we can have more impact.

We also believe this will improve the working lives of staff by making it easier to achieve better outcomes for patients. For example, by removing barriers, overlaps and inefficiencies within existing governance and delivery structures. This is something we heard loud and clear through the engagement which informed the recommendations of the Review.

Next Steps
We are now working on the strategic case to be reviewed by NHS England in early 2026. Once this has been approved, we will develop our plans in more detail setting out how the two trusts will become one new organisation, what this means for our staff and the way we deliver our services. We will also develop a more detailed timeline of the changes. This will require further evaluation by NHS England and, if supported, the final decision to merge the two trusts will require approval by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

A key part of the options we explore will be that the organisation we build together should feel new and different from the ones we are working in currently, and deliver better care for our patients. Going through this process gives us a great opportunity to take the best of what we are all doing and review the things that have held us back in the past.

I will keep you all informed throughout the process and share how you can be involved in shaping our future together.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Sara Munro
Joint Chief Executive of Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, and Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Senior Responsible Officer for the Leeds Provider Partnership Review.