

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

CRAMLINGTON SPECIALIST EMERGENCY CARE HOSPITAL

Governors will recall the debate on this matter at the 15th September 2011 meeting. Since then, as Chairman I have received and responded to correspondence with Northumberland County Council, the Chairman of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, the former Chairman of NHS North East and also the Rt Hon Simon Burns MP, Minister of State for Health. Correspondence with the latter included submission of the resolution by the Council of Governors to seek an independent review of the project.

In a further letter of 24th October 2011 to Simon Burns MP, I requested that the Minister should ensure that an independent re-examination of this project was carried out and as soon as possible and suggested that the Royal Colleges might be an appropriate source to secure objective assessment. We believe some of the conditions set by NHS North of Tyne, including the funding implications, and the clinical test have clearly not yet been met. Attached as Annex A are the seven conditions provided to me by the Chair of NHS North of Tyne.

The correspondence from the Chair of Northumberland County Council's Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee made it quite clear that the Council was determined to see the scheme proceed and that reliance had been placed upon a review by a National Clinical Assessment Team led Sir George Alberti. The Chairman pointed out in his reply that Sir George had not in any way involved Newcastle Hospitals in that review. Reference was also made to a review undertaken in 2009 by Sir John Burn and Professor Stephen Singleton on behalf of the Strategic Health Authority. That review has never been disclosed to this Trust.

The Chairman's response to the Northumbria Healthcare Chairman's letter emphasised that the key objection of this Trust to the Cramlington development was location and the introduction of competition across the spectrum of urgent / emergency medicine and all this entails.

On 9th November 2011 Radio Newcastle broadcast listener feedback about the Cramlington development, which served to suggest much greater clarity is called for as a consequence of the passage of time since the sponsored consultation in 2009.

The latest position shall be advised of at the meeting.

Kingsley W Smith
Chairman
10th November 2011

THE SEVEN CONDITIONS

The approval conditions set by the NHS North of Tyne commissioning board in October 2009 are as follows:

- i) Given Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's undertaking that these developments would not lead to an increase in overall costs for NHS North of Tyne, the financial risks will be contained, and the risks within the current revenue resources will remain with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- ii) NHS North of Tyne will undertake further consultation on midwifery-led service configuration in the near future and will then decide upon the future midwifery service that the trust will provide, within current revenue resources
- iii) Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust remains committed to joint working with Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals around the hub and spoke model of care for all appropriate clinical services, including paediatrics, and maintains active clinical involvement in clinical networks
- iv) Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust continues to develop services for older people at the base sites in collaboration with primary care
- v) Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust delivers the proposed environmental improvements to North Tyneside General Hospital and Wansbeck General Hospital to enhance privacy and dignity for patients promptly after the emergency care hospital is opened
- vi) Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust continues to work on public transport, plus patient transport plans and facilities for relatives and carers and fully involves NHS North of Tyne and local people in their development
- vii) Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust works closely with all three local authorities to agree and ensure smooth and effective discharge arrangements