

Ref no: 420071217
From: Public
Date: 07/12/17
Subject: NHS Improvement

REQUEST & RESPONSE

NHS Improvement wrote to the chief executives of all non-specialist acute trusts in England on or around 7th September 2017 in relation to their proposal for pathology hubs and spokes, which divided English NHS hospitals into 29 groups. Chief executives were required to reply by September 30th 2017, either agreeing to commit resources to forming a pathology hub and spoke with the other trusts defined for them by NHS improvement, or to submit an alternative proposal. In relation to this, please answer the following questions:

a. Has the chief executive of your trust written to confirm their acceptance of the proposal from NHS Improvement.

The Chief Executive has given approval for the proposal to be explored.

b. If the answer to a) is 'no', do they plan to and if so by when?

NA

c. If the answer to a) is 'no', has the trust submitted an alternative proposal. Please supply the details of this proposal.

NA

d. Are the trust considering (either in alignment with the NHS Improvement proposal, or as an alternative) any solutions which would involve partnerships with or outsourcing (excluding the sending of low volume specialist tests to these companies from the definition of outsourcing) to private sector laboratory companies (defined as companies which manage laboratories such as TDL, Sonic, HSL, Synlab, Labco, Viapath, and not companies which provide equipment such as Siemens, Abbott laboratories, or Roche)

No

e. Have the trust, either individually, or collectively with the other trusts in its group, ruled out any form of partnership or outsourcing the management of their laboratories as defined above, for the foreseeable future.

No

f. How are the Trust intending to communicate any changes to users of the laboratory services on and how will patients be kept informed.

To be confirmed

g. Please supply the “governance structure, timetable and deliverables for an inter trust Steering Group to oversee these processes” as required by NHSI by the end of October 2017.

Pathology Programme Board established consisting of:

STP Clinical Pathology Lead
Programme Manager
CEO Sponsor
Clinical and managerial leads from all trusts

Focus groups set up for major disciplines within pathology.