



Great Western Ambulance Service **NHS**

NHS Trust

**Great Western Ambulance Service application for Foundation trust status: An update for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
10 June 2011**

**Background**

The Government now intends that every NHS trust becomes a foundation trust (FT). Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) recognises there is great benefit in achieving FT status. Members and elected governors provide a direct link between the trust and the population it serves. Members – made up of our staff and our public - will be able to influence the direction of the trust and FT status will boost accountability to patients and the public. Local accountability will mean that our staff, the public we serve and some of our key partners will have a real say in how we shape our future services.

The trust will be financially independent, able to raise capital, dispose of assets and invest funds back into the trust. The trust and its members will be able to set the future direction of the trust, win new business and explore new areas of service delivery.

FT status offers a significant opportunity to the trust, not least in communicating and engaging with staff and its public.

An NHS foundation trust has:

- A membership community made up of local people and our staff.
- A Council of Governors made up of public and staff governors elected by the members and appointed governors from local partner organisations.
- A Board of Directors made up of the chair, non-executive directors appointed by the governors.

**Overview Timeframe**

September

Consultation with public to start

Member recruitment starts

November 2011

Consultation closes

December 2011

Board considers consultation response

Jan 2012

Consultation outcome published

April 2012

Formal application made to the Secretary of State for Health

May 2012

Governor elections

October 2012

Subject to agreement, GWAS authorised to become FT

## **Consultation**

The consultation will start in early September and run until late November.

A calendar is in development of non-GWAS public meetings and events that are taking place during our consultation period. It is proposed to have a presence at as many of these as possible.

Subject to feedback and board approval, it is proposed to host nine specific events three in each of our localities for key stakeholders and members of the public to hear about our work, and consider our proposals for becoming an NHS Foundation Trust to create opportunities for feedback and membership.

## **Questions for the JOSC**

During the consultation period, the trust plans to communicate with liaison officers for individual HOSCs and the Joint HOSC to ensure GWAS FT presentations are scheduled into the existing HOSC/JOSC meetings schedules when possible.

**Question: Do individual HOSCs want to get presentations during the consultation period or would they want this to happen through the JOSC?**

**Question: Would HOSCs/JOSCs prefer to attend the public consultation events instead of presentations to HOSCs/JOSC?**

The trust aims to run nine public consultation events – three in each sector.

**Question: Do JOSC members think three in each sector is enough?**