



Sussex PCT Cluster Update for stakeholders



Sussex

April 2011

This is my first in a series of regular updates I intend to send out to partners and others with an interest in health and wellbeing within Sussex.

Background

As you will know, I took on the mantle of accountable officer for each of the primary care trusts (PCTs) within Sussex, namely:

- NHS West Sussex
- NHS Hastings and Rother
- NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald
- NHS Brighton and Hove

Clustering was introduced to ensure that there is sufficient capacity, particularly at senior level, to keep our essential work going. Some additional monies will also be saved through sharing some management functions and other activities. This will enable us to spend more on patient care.

Executive team

I have appointed an executive team to support me and our Chair, Denise Harker to lead us through these reforms. They are:

Chair	Denise Harker
Chief Executive	Amanda Fadero
Director of Finance	Sharmila Nebhrajani
Managing Director: Area/PCTs	Michael Schofield
Director of Quality and Governance/Chief Nurse	Julia Dutchman-Bailey
Director of Transition and Commissioning Development	Sue Braysher
Director of Delivery (QIPP)	Claire Quigley
Director of the Sussex Commissioning Support Unit	Frank Sims

We held an executive team away day, which was rather intense, but enthusiastic. There is lots to do, but we are confident that we have the right team to lead us through the reforms.

We have discussed in depth the general principles of clustering, but as you know, the devil is in the detail. It is a very complicated picture, as I'm sure you can imagine. I will be in touch again shortly to give you more detail on the emerging role of the cluster.

It is not my intention to establish a cluster headquarters. Executive directors will continue to primarily operate from their current locations, both in order to maintain a local presence and to minimise the disruption to staff.

The final member of my executive team, the Medical Director, will be appointed in May.

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Next steps

I am very clear of the need to maintain local relationships and local accountability. Sarah Blow has been confirmed as the Interim Area Director in East Sussex and we will shortly announce the Area Director for West Sussex and for Brighton and Hove.

We will be taking a scheme of delegation to each of the PCT Boards in May and nothing formally will change until then. Some things will need to change significantly, but it will happen over time and I will not be rushed.

Each of the executive directors will be considering how best to discharge their duties, and what could be done Sussex-wide. But the absolute understanding that this is about local working and we will only go Sussex-wide when it makes sense to do so.

I also wanted to acknowledge the Government's announcement this week of a listening exercise in relation to the NHS reforms. We will obviously incorporate any changes that result from this process, on advice from Ministers and Sir David Nicholson.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I will be arranging some briefing meetings with key partners over the coming months, and my office will be in touch in due course.

With all best wishes,

Amanda